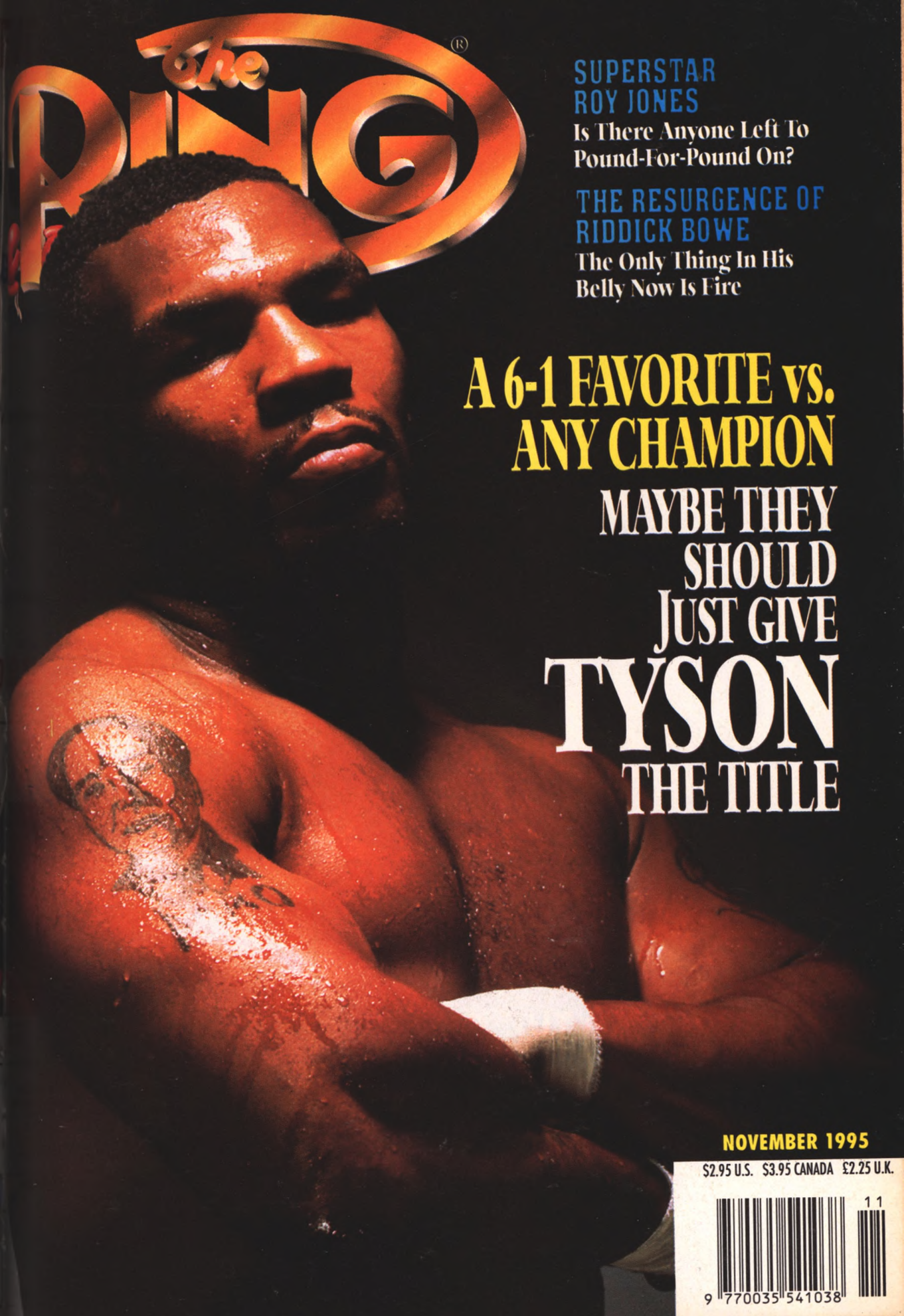
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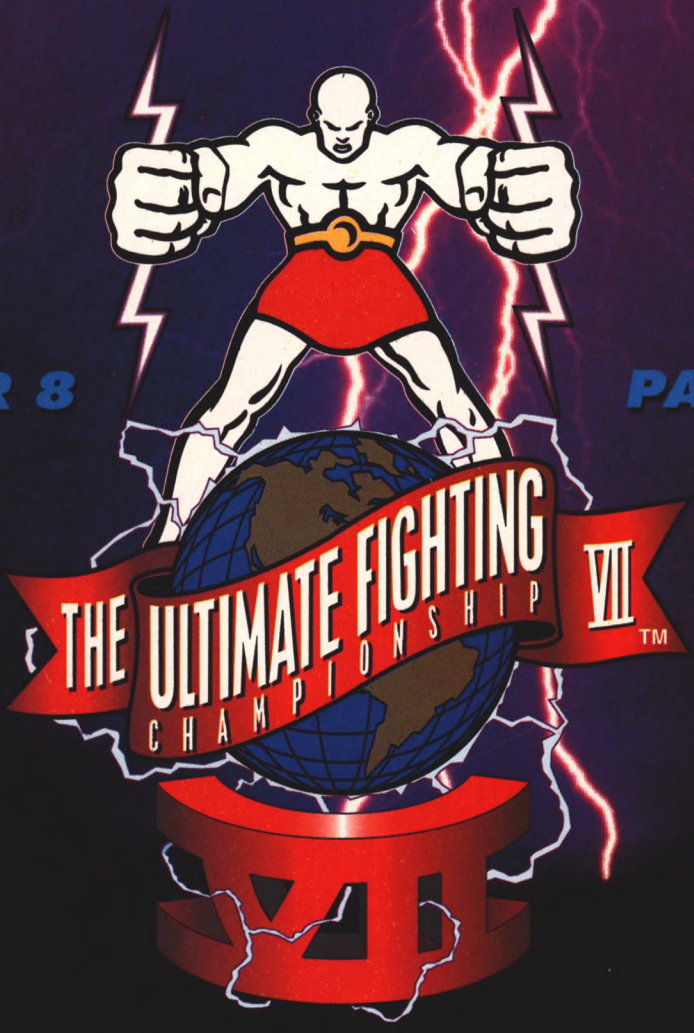

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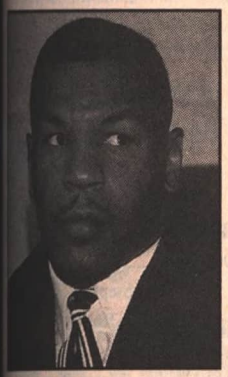

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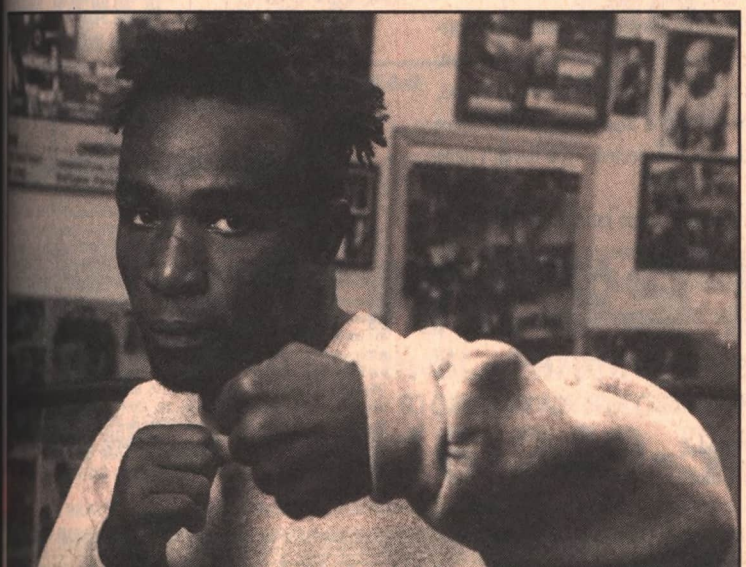

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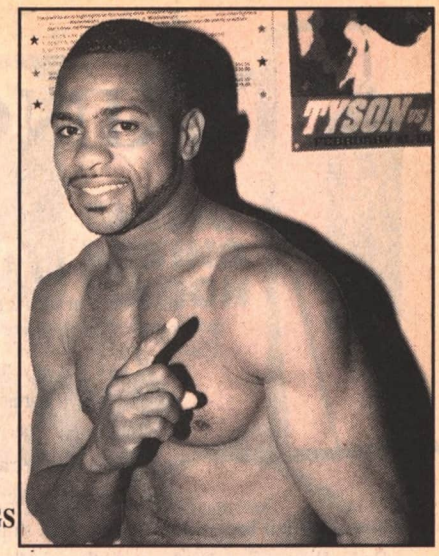

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RINGSIDE

Thanks to the Big Three of alphabet organizations, boxing has never been in such a state of bliss. God bless the WBA, WBC, and IBF ... and the WBO, IBO, and IBC, too ... and the WBU and WBF ... If I've left anyone out, it's only because I was MIA when I should've been learning my ABCs.

For starters, Oscar De La Hoya vacated the IBF lightweight title in July, but only because he was about to be deservedly stripped for defending against Genaro Hernandez, who vacated the WBA junior lightweight title because he was going to be stripped for fighting De La Hoya. The IBF wanted De La Hoya to face mandatory challenger Miguel Julio. "The Golden Boy's" reaction to the threat of being stripped? A yawn, sandwiched by an "oh, really?" and a "who cares?" Such a cavalier attitude did not mask the fact that De La Hoya was scared of Julio, if not out-and-out *petrified*. And why not? Julio has beaten, among others, Manuel Zappa (but not Frank Zappa), Elvin Gonzalez (but not Elvin Hayes), and Arcelio Diaz (but not Arcelio Hall).

Though George Foreman tried to save face by giving back the IBF heavyweight title, he was, in essence, stripped for refusing to be rematched with Axel Schulz. How *dare* Big George attempt to dictate to an organization that gave him a chance to regain the crown! Besides, what kind of champion is this guy, anyway? He's undefeated in 1995, and has still managed to lose a pair of championship belts. Foreman fancies himself the people's champion. Well, maybe it's time somebody reminded him he can't have it Botha ways.

The WBC billed Lennox Lewis-Lionel Butler as an official heavyweight eliminator, then slid Mike Tyson, who hasn't fought in four years, into the number-one spot. You don't think that makes sense? Well, if Peter McNeeley was ranked 10th, where was Tyson supposed to land, 17th? Lewis, who kayoed Butler, has been promised a shot at the winner of September's title fight between champion Oliver McCall and Frank Bruno. King has indicated Tyson might want that fight, too. If Double-L doesn't have a Plan B that's his problem, not the WBC's. Hey, the alphabets can't worry about *managing* fighters, too. Right? *Right?*

Back to the IBF for a second. Last I looked, Evander Holyfield and Michael Moorer weren't ranked in the heavyweight top 12, but Corrie Sanders, Tony Tucker, and Vaughn Bean were. By the way, you can no longer pick on the IBF for failing to rank Riddick Bowe. That's because "Big Daddy" is the reigning WBO champion. Hardly anybody recognizes the WBO, but the WBA, WBC, and IBF do—sort of—because they refuse to rank that organization's champions. Stop me if I'm beginning to ramble.

At first glance, ranking Bean at the expense of Holyfield and Moorer may seem inappropriate. But IBF ratings chairman Doug Beavers has ascended to his lofty position for good reason. If you take the time to analyze the records of the fighters in question, as Beavers obviously has, you'll see that Bean has beaten a much higher caliber of opposition than either of the former champions. Bet you can't name one of Bean's victims. Just as I suspected—you haven't done your homework!

I'd laud the WBA, too, but according to that organization's latest ratings, Willie Pep is featherweight champion, and Sugar Ray Robinson heads the welterweight top 10. One last thing: I've finally figured out why the WBA lists *Bruce Seldom*, and not Bruce *Seldon*, as its heavyweight champion. It's because *Seldom* has the division been represented by as unaccomplished a champion.

Those alphabet boys don't miss a trick, do they?

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 74, No. 11 **November 1995**

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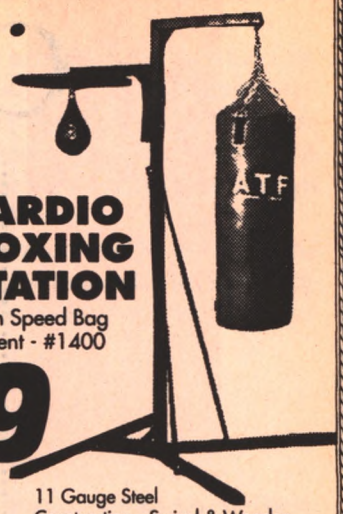

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COME OUT WRITING

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TYSON, TYSON, TYSON

I can't understand the thinking of Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood. I know he has his pet fighters. But when I read his "Ringside" column in the August 1995 issue, it made me believe he writes certain things just for shock value.

Farhood created a 16-fighter tournament to unify the heavyweight title. Riddick Bowe KO 5 Mike Tyson in the final? So what if Tyson did three years in jail. He is without a doubt one of the greatest heavyweight champions of all-time. First he unified the title, then he defended it against any and all comers. Bowe won the title, and his first order of business was to duck Lennox Lewis. Try and tell me Tyson would have done that. Then Bowe defended against Michael Dokes. I know most champions deserve an easy first defense, but how about an opponent who had at least a small chance of winning?

If Mr. Farhood is serious about Bowe knocking out Tyson, ask him to please explain what Bowe has done to earn his undying support.

T. DION
Lawrence, MA

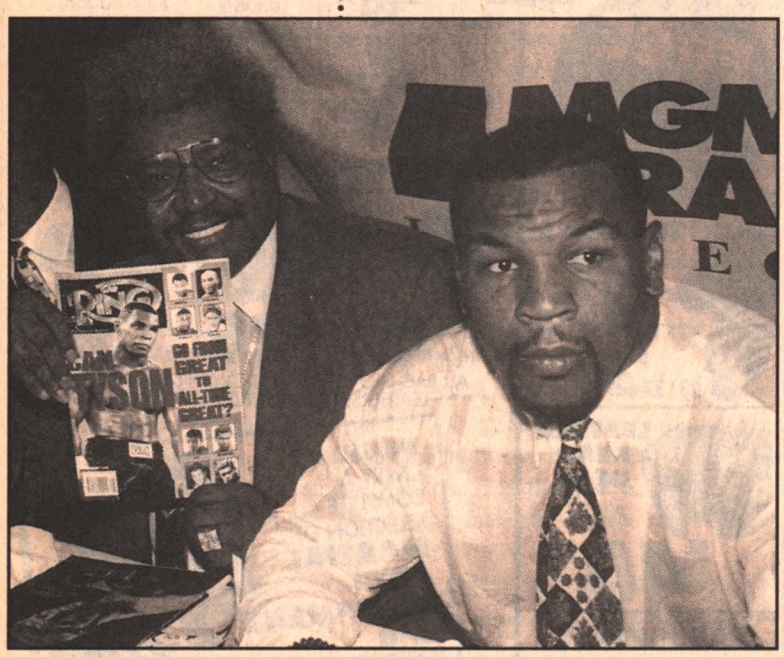


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

We bet Don King has an answer for the question posed on the August 1995 cover of THE RING. *The Second Coming gives Tyson the opportunity to establish a lasting greatness.*

A glance at the cover of your August 1995 issue, in which you tried to place Mike Tyson in heavyweight history, told me something was upside down. Holmes, Foreman, Frazier, and Tunney are the greats, while Ali, Dempsey, Marciano, and Louis are the *all-time* greats? Frazier and Holmes should be eliminated, and Jack Johnson and Bob Fitzsimmons should be added to the section of greats.

It seems every boxing analyst tries to sweep Tunney under the rug. Why? He was virtually perfect through 83 fights and in effect wiped out the entire division by twice defeating Dempsey. Did Marciano wipe out the entire division during his reign? Hardly. He was an overachiever who knew his limitations and retired before getting swamped by the Pattersons and Listons.

As for Tyson, he's a disgrace both in and out of the ring. Here's a guy who's still in his 20s. He's had only 42 fights and he's already washed up.

MIKE REVELES
San Diego, CA

While reading boxing historian Hank Kaplan's comments on the Tyson story in the August 1995 issue ("The Second Coming: Can Mike Tyson Go From Being Great To All-Time Great?"), I found myself asking what he possibly could have been thinking. I respect Kaplan and his knowledge of boxing, but I was bothered by what he said.

Kaplan said that among heavyweights, Tyson was the greatest defensive fighter of all-time before his loss to Buster Douglas. But Tyson was a pressure fighter. Because of his style and his fearsome reputation, most of the fighters he faced were in defensive mode. As a result, he didn't get hit much. His bouts with Douglas and Razor Ruddock proved he had a leaky defense against opponents who could handle his pressure.

Kaplan also stated that Tyson had a rock-hard chin. But he didn't get hit much, and when Douglas hit him, he went down. Of course, he was able to rebound when hit by Ruddock, so I think it remains difficult to rate his chin.

DEMOND MINES
Doswell, VA

Does IBF junior welterweight champion Kostya Tszyu, a veteran of a mere 15 fights, belong in the pound-for-pound top 10? For that matter, should he be rated above the legendary Julio Cesar Chavez?

TSZYU WHO?

Why is Kostya Tszyu rated in THE RING'S pound-for-pound top 10? He's fought a mere 15 times, and a fighter should not be included in the pound-for-pound ratings based on potential. He should first earn respect by defeating world-class opponents. How many world-class opponents has Tszyu beaten? Do you consider a faded Livingstone Bramble world-class? Or an over-the-hill, glass-jawed Roger Mayweather (whom Tszyu couldn't knock out)? And how do you justify ranking Tszyu higher than Julio Cesar Chavez? Tszyu can't carry Chavez' jockstrap.

TED SMITH JR.
Baltimore, MD

HAGLER vs. LaMOTTA

Although I enjoy your "Battle Of The Legends" feature, I must take exception to your choice of panelists in the matchup between Marvin Hagler and Jake LaMotta (August 1995). Choosing three New York-based experts (Teddy Brenner, Al Certo, and Sal Rappa) to judge a LaMotta fight is tantamount to using three Mexicans for a Julio Cesar Chavez fight. The panelists were predictably in favor of New Yorker LaMotta.

DOUGLAS CAVANAUGH
Encino Park, CA

It was a unanimous conclusion among your experts that LaMotta would have beaten Hagler. The lunacy of that opinion is illustrated by the ridiculous evidence that was presented. Both Teddy Brenner and Sal Rappa based on the first Hagler-Antuofermo bout to support their arguments. This is a questionable premise considering that most observers believe Hagler won that bout. (It was judged a draw.) Moreover, Hagler was still four full years away from his prime, and he destroyed Antuofermo the second time around. These points were mysteriously overlooked by the experts.

Rappa questioned Hagler's ability to deal with aggressive fighters. An objective historian would not so readily have dismissed Hagler's wars during the '70s with a formidable list of Philadelphia middleweights who were well-known for their unbridled aggression. Hagler beat them all and destroyed some of them. Surprisingly, the experts also cite LaMotta's bouts with Sugar Ray Robinson, despite the fact that LaMotta lost five out of six and was stopped in one of them.

Though we all must defer to the argument that LaMotta had a legendary chin, Rappa's statement that LaMotta "clearly had the better chin" is baffling. Unlike Hagler, LaMotta was stopped and knocked down. And "The Raging Bull" didn't have to withstand Juan Roldan, Roberto Duran, John Mugabi, and the almost supernatural force of Thomas Hearns' right hand. Hagler's chin at least matched LaMotta's.

I defy anyone to argue that the Hagler of 1983-84 could have been beaten by any middleweight of any era. LaMotta would have been a formidable foe, but he simply didn't have the artillery to overcome this particular champion.

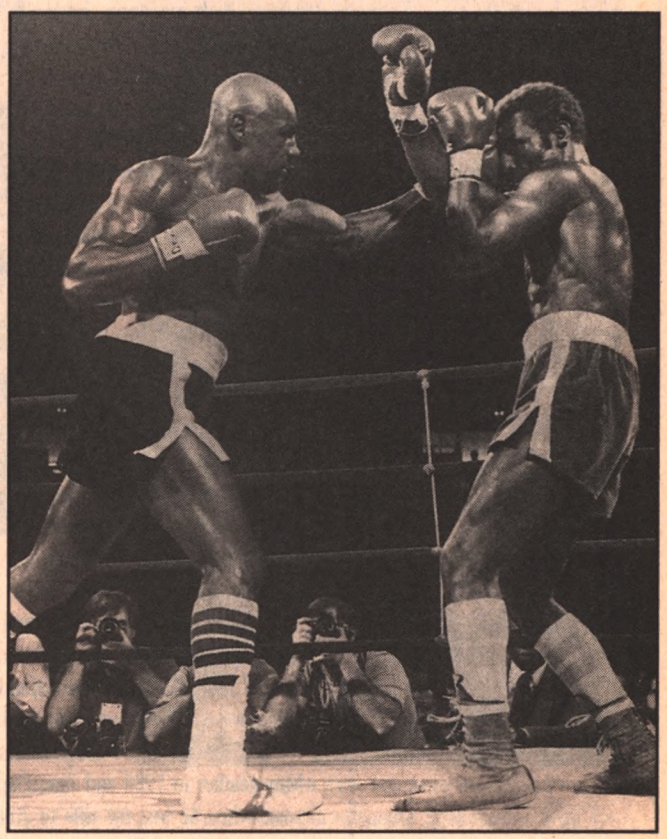
Hagler in his prime? Nobody beats him.

GREGORY J. TOLEDO
Hyde Park, MA

It's absurd to suggest LaMotta would have won a decision over Hagler. LaMotta fought in just four world title fights, while Hagler engaged in a total of 15, including 12 successful defenses of the *undisputed* title. When LaMotta challenged Marcel Cerdan for the title in 1949, the champion was forced to retire after 10 rounds due to an injured shoulder. And while LaMotta's title fights were impressive, nothing can compare to Hagler's 1985 war with Thomas Hearns.

LaMotta's only hope would have been to initiate a war of attrition, and Hagler would have loved it!

PETER R. CORY
Kingston, Ontario ■



Marvin Hagler steamrolled a handful of title challengers, including Wilford Scypion. Hagler fans have come to Marvelous Marvin's defense following his "Battle Of The Legends" with Jake LaMotta.

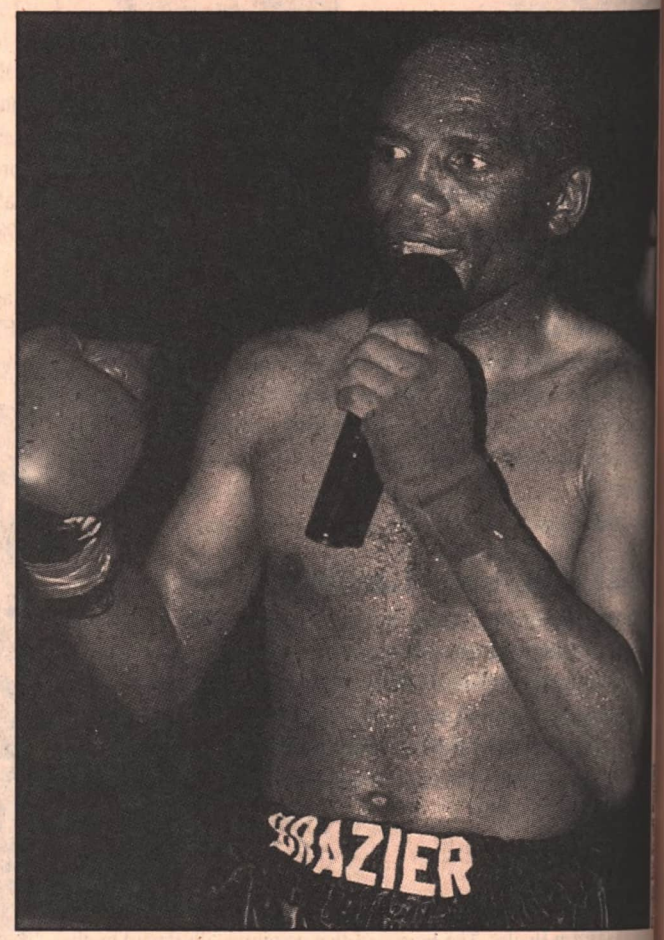
ROUND ONE

"UP GOES BRAZIER!"

Harold Brazier had the crowd in the palm of his glove, and he knew it. Having just scored his 100th professional victory, a 10-round decision over Larry Sutton, the 39-year-old welterweight took the microphone and addressed the 2,200 fans at the Century Center in his hometown of South Bend, Indiana.

"I've always appreciated all your support," he said. "And I always wanted you to be the first to know when I'm going to retire. Well, I want to announce my retirement ... after 50 more fights!"

Brazier, 100-15-1 (62), is a nice guy, and it would be nice if he got one more shot at a world title. "I just have to keep winning," he told THE RING. "I'm boxing better than ever. Most fighters, when their legs go, they're finished. But I've never used my legs. I never bounced around, and I blocked punches with my arms. I feel great."



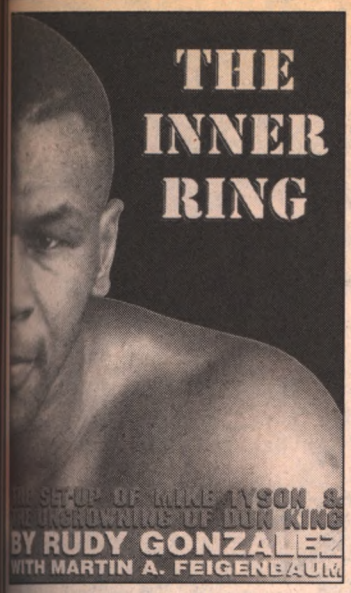
Brazier announces his retirement—sort of

Brazier remains one of boxing's few barnstormers, fighting throughout the Midwest and landing an occasional bout on ESPN. But unlike most road warriors, he has a strong fan base at home. He continues to work at Gates Chevy World in South Bend, and if he's not selling cars, he's hawking tickets. "The last fight," he said, "there were 240 ringside seats, and I sold 190 of them myself at the dealership on the day they went on sale."

Brazier has twice fought for the world title, having dropped decisions to 140-pound champions Roger Mayweather in 1988 and Juan Coggi in 1989. He reigned as USBA welterweight champion as recently as last year, when he lost the title to Anthony Stephens on points. While he may never again fight for the ultimate prize, he can proudly make one claim: He beat Julio Cesar Chavez to 100 wins.

And be sure he'll get to 150 first, too.

–Steve Farhood



THE BOXING BOOK SHELF

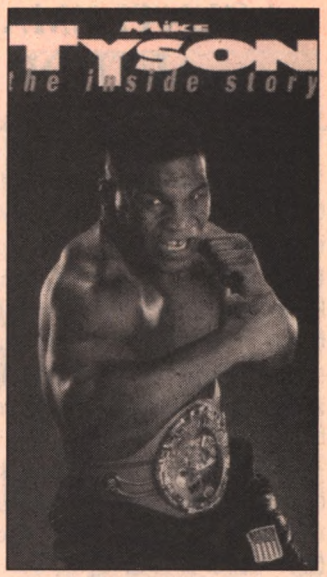
How hot is *The Inner Ring: The Set-Up Of Mike Tyson & The Uncrowning Of Don King* ($19.95, The Oliver Publishing Group)? Consider that former Tyson chauffeur and confidant Rudy Gonzalez, who co-authored the book with attorney Martin A. Feigenbaum, couldn't interest a publisher. (Gonzalez spent $30,000 to publish it himself.) And consider that we've chosen not to repeat Gonzalez' steamy revelations, which focus on sex, drugs, murder attempts, car chases, and the like. Firstly, we question their authenticity; some of the scenes he describes border on unbelievable. Secondly, like the publishing houses that took a pass, we don't want to get sued.

In the preface, Feigenbaum says that at a meeting earlier this year, Gonzalez demanded the attorney write the book in two weeks so it could be published by the time Tyson was released from prison. The deadline pressure is illustrated on almost every page; there are typos galore, and the authors seemed to have saved a few bucks by opting not to hire a fact-checker.

In the first couple of chapters of *The Inner Ring*, Gonzalez establishes one thing: He was unyieldingly loyal to Tyson. In his mind, Tyson was the good guy and Don King, Rory Holloway, and John Horne the villains. Even if that were true, *The Inner Ring* reads like a 260-page display of sour grapes. And a poorly written one at that.

–Steve Farhood

... AND THE VIDEO LIBRARY



Mike Tyson: The Inside Story, a recently released VHS tape distributed by MPI Home Video (suggested retail price $19.98), should be renamed *Mike Tyson: Bill Cayton's Side Of The Story*. The 60-minute video, which is copyrighted by Cayton's Big Fights Inc., offers a singular perspective. And you don't even have to watch the tape to find out what that perspective is; all you have to do is read the blurb on the back of the box: " ... Learn also how Tyson's unfortunate associations with ex-wife Robin Givens and infamous fight promoter Don King undermined the efforts of those who truly cared."

While *Mike Tyson: The Inside Story* offers only one side of the story, there is a wealth of fight footage, as well as some revealing video from Tyson's younger days. Only trouble is, we've seen it all before. If you're a Tyson maniac, you'll enjoy this offering. If you're looking for something new and exciting, we suggest you pass.

–Steve Farhood

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Photo by Jay Lash

"Hello, this is Don, you're on the air ... "

2. There's not another radio host on the air who can misquote Shakespeare with the alacrity of King.

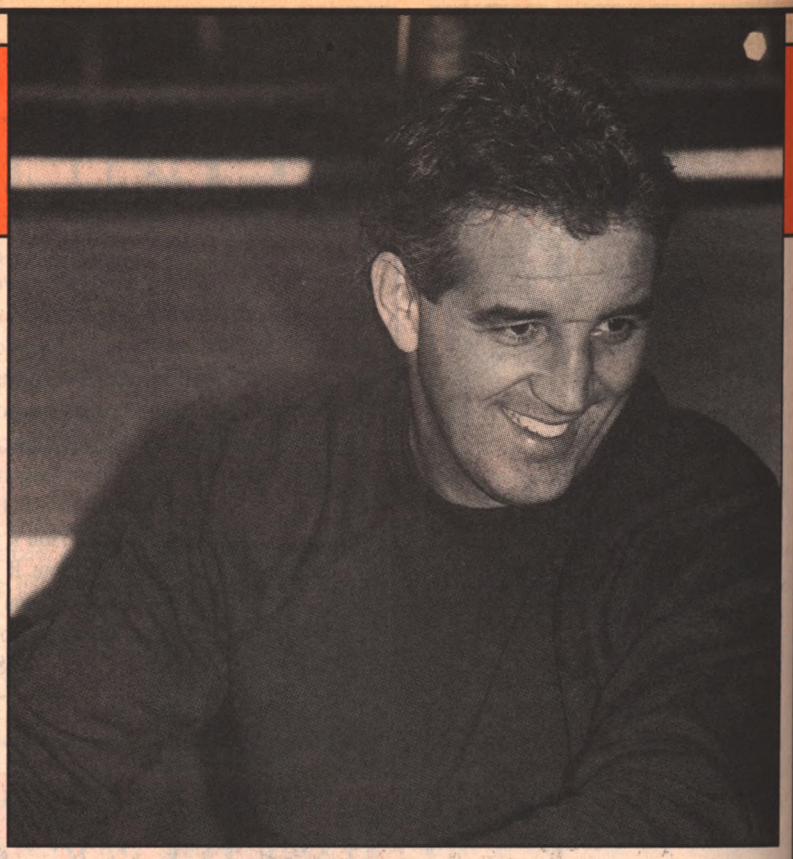
1. King can finish every news break with an update on the WBC ratings.

THE "GENTLEMAN" AUTHOR

Former heavyweight contender Gerry Cooney, 38 years old and seemingly at peace, is penning his biography with sportswriter Bob Klapisch. Cooney, whose last fight was a kayo loss to George Foreman in 1990, has been working for the New York State prison system and with recovering alcoholics. He is also part-owner of two minor-league baseball teams.

In the book, Cooney will recall his tumultuous rise to the top of the ratings and his memorable showdown with then-champion Larry Holmes in 1982.

"I never thought of myself as a White Hope," he told *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. "People always wanted me to be something I wasn't, and all the time I just wanted to be Gerry Cooney. It's hard even now to think about it. It was a horrible thing.



Cooney: No longer punching at demons

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DOESN'T ANYBODY WANNA BE CHAMP?

The way boxing keeps shooting itself in the foot, we better start counting toes. By the time you read this, it's almost certain George Foreman and Oscar De La Hoya, two of the biggest names in the sport, will have either voluntarily given up championship belts or have been stripped. Who's to blame? Make up your own mind. One thing's for sure: Neither Big George nor The Golden Boy seem particularly concerned.

Both cases involve the IBF. In June, the 46-year-old Foreman announced he was sending his belt, which he won by kayoing Michael Moorer last November, to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin, Texas. The IBF has mandated that Foreman again defend against Germany's Axel Schulz, whom he outpointed by controversial decision in April. Foreman wants to fight Michael Moorer instead.

Foreman doesn't want to do it again

IBF President Bob Lee told the New York *Daily News* that Foreman's action "surprises and saddens me." Lee said the organization's top-ranked heavyweights, Schulz and Frans Botha, would vie for the vacant title.

As for De La Hoya, the IBF plans to strip him if he goes through with his September 9 defense against WBA junior lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez, who is also likely to be stripped. The IBF has mandated that De La Hoya defend against its mandatory challenger, Colombia's Miguel Julio, who is rated first by all three major alphabet organizations. Lee said that if De La Hoya were stripped, Julio and South Africa's Philip Holiday, who is ranked second, would clash for the vacant title.

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

In June, unbeaten junior bantamweight **Johnny Tapia** was indicted by an Albuquerque, New Mexico, grand jury on charges of assaulting his wife and pointing a gun at her. The indictment was issued only days before Tapia's nationally televised points victory over **Arthur Johnson** ... Recordkeeper **Dick Mastro** died in Los Angeles of a massive heart attack. He was 82.

THE PUNCHLINE

"When I hit them, they can't take the punishment and the power. The power is extraordinary. I'm blessed by God, the power's a gift. I'm too good. I'm not bragging, but I'm too good."

–Unbeaten British junior featherweight Naseem Hamed after his second-round kayo of Juan Polo-Perez

AL KRATZER'S VIEW

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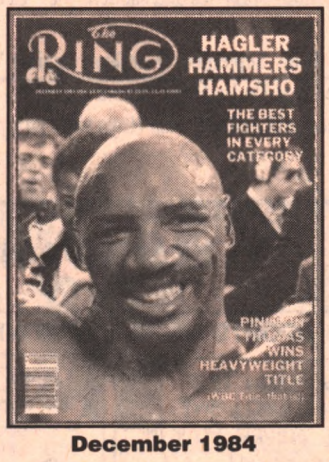

December 1984

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THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended July 14, 1995

Frank Bruno
Heavyweight

James Toney
Light Heavyweight

Frankie Randall
Junior Welterweight

Steve Johnston
Lightweight

Robert Garcia
Junior Lightweight

Michael Carbajal
Junior Flyweight

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Fort Washington, MD *37-1*
2. **OLIVER McCALL**
   Chicago, IL *26-5 (WBC Champ)*
3. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Atlanta, GA *32-2*
4. **GEORGE FOREMAN**
   Houston, TX *74-4*
5. **MICHAEL MOORER**
   Detroit, MI *36-1*
6. **LENNOX LEWIS**
   England *27-1*
7. **BRUCE SELDON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *32-3 (WBA Champ)*
8. **TOMMY MORRISON**
   Jay, OK *45-2-1*
9. **ALEXANDR ZOLKIN**
   Westerville, OH *22-2*
10. **FRANK BRUNO**
    England *39-4*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS**
   Campo, CA *43-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE**
   Spring Valley, NY *27-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON**
   Lexington, KY *24-3-2*
4. **ANACLET WAMBA**
   France *45-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **SERGEI KOBOZEV**
   Brooklyn, NY *22-0*
6. **TORSTEN MAY**
   Germany *10-0*
7. **PATRICE AOUSSI**
   France *14-0*
8. **NATE MILLER**
   Philadelphia, PA *25-4*
9. **KENNY KEENE**
   Emmett, ID *32-1*
10. **CARL THOMPSON**
    England *18-3*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND *40-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **HENRY MASKE**
   Germany *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
   France *32-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN**
   Chicago, IL *16-0*
5. **JAMES TONEY**
   Ann Arbor, MI *47-2-2*
6. **MERQUI SOSA**
   New York, NY *25-4-2*
7. **MIKE McCALLUM**
   Brooklyn, NY *48-3-1*
8. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
   Germany *27-0*
9. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI**
   Germany *37-2-1*
10. **MICHAEL NUNN**
    Davenport, IA *44-3*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL *29-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN**
   England *40-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **STEVE COLLINS**
   Ireland *29-3*
4. **FRANK LILES**
   N. Hollywood, CA *27-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **CHRIS EUBANK**
   England *42-1-2*
6. **TIM LITTLES**
   Flint, MI *25-1*
7. **VINNY PAZIENZA**
   Cranston, RI *40-6*
8. **TONY THORNTON**
   Glassboro, NJ *37-6-1*
9. **BRYANT BRANNON**
   Trenton, NJ *14-0*
10. **SUGAR BOY MALINGA**
    South Africa *39-9*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **JORGE CASTRO**
   Argentina *97-4-2 (WBA Champ)*
2. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA *27-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **QUINCY TAYLOR**
   Dallas, TX *25-3*
4. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON**
   Seattle, WA *33-1*
5. **JULIAN JACKSON**
   Virgin Islands *51-3 (WBC Champ)*
6. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX *35-4-1*
7. **JOE LIPSEY**
   Lansing, MI *24-0*
8. **DANA ROSENBLATT**
   Malden, MA *24-0*
9. **LONNIE BRADLEY**
   New York, NY *21-0*
10. **RICHIE WOODHALL**
    England *19-0*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **VINCENT PETTWAY**
   Baltimore, MD 38-4-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina 54-2
3. **BUDDY McGIRT**
   Hauppauge, NY 66-4-1
4. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO 34-1 (WBA Champ)
5. **VERNO PHILLIPS**
   New York, NY 25-5-1
6. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico 59-1
7. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA 38-6
8. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI 26-1
9. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France 28-2
10. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
    Houston, TX 21-0

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA 35-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico 26-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana 29-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **CRISANTO ESPANA**
   N. Ireland 31-1
5. **DERRELL COLEY**
   Capitol Heights, MD 27-0-2
6. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico 20-0-1
7. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI 34-1
8. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV 30-1
9. **EAMONN LOUGHRAN**
   Ireland 24-1-1
10. **ANDREW MURRAY**
    Guyana 18-2

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH 52-3-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia 15-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 93-1-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina 69-3-2
5. **DAVID KAMAU**
   Los Angeles, CA 26-0
6. **JAKE RODRIGUEZ**
   Brentwood, NY 27-3-2
7. **FRED PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL 38-20-4
8. **JAN BERGMAN**
   South Africa 26-0
9. **SAMMY FUENTES**
   Hermosa Beach, CA 31-13-1
10. **KHALID RAHILOU**
    France 23-2

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA 18-0
2. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 37-0 (WBC Champ)
3. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan 21-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA 43-2
5. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 15-0
6. **MIGUEL JULIO**
   Colombia 29-1-1
7. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico 37-4
8. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ 22-1-1
9. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA 17-0
10. **IVAN ROBINSON**
    Delran, NJ 19-0

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA 41-2 (WBC Champ)
2. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA 32-0-1
3. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY 53-3-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX 29-1-2
5. **REGGIE TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY 38-3-1
6. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ 20-1
7. **VICTOR HUGO PAZ**
   Argentina 55-1-1
8. **ED HOPSON**
   St. Louis, MO 26-1
9. **FREDDIE LIBERATORE**
   Bayside, NY 20-4-1
10. **ROBERT GARCIA**
    Oxnard, CA 21-0

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 37-2 (WBC Champ)
2. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI 40-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **STEVE ROBINSON**
   Wales 20-9-1
4. **ELOY ROJAS**
   Venezuela 31-1-1 (WBA Champ)
5. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY 42-1
6. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia 30-1
7. **MIGUEL ARROZAL**
   Portland, OR 24-5
8. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico 50-6
9. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL 14-3
10. **JOSE BADILLO**
    Puerto Rico 16-0

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa 27-2 (IBF Champ)
2. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico 36-0
3. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England 19-0
4. **HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ**
   New York, NY 32-2-3 (WBC Champ)
5. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela 22-1 (WBA Champ)
6. **WILFREDO VASQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico 42-7-3
7. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX 39-2-1
8. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico 50-7-3
9. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa 35-2
10. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
    Las Vegas, NV 27-1-1

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **YASUEI YAKUSHIJI**
   Japan 24-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **DAORUNG MP PETROLEUM**
   Thailand 55-4-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV 16-0
4. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa 17-0 (IBF Champ)
5. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana 35-2
6. **ANCEE GEDEON**
   Westminster, CA 13-7-1
7. **ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia 29-1
8. **AL KOTEY**
   England 20-1
9. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan 10-2-1
10. **PAULIE AYALA**
    Fort Worth, TX 15-0

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia 20-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan 17-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM 30-0-2
4. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea 19-4 (WBA Champ)
5. **JULIO BORBOA**
   Mexico 24-6
6. **CECILIO ESPINO**
   Huntington Park, CA 30-3-1
7. **DAVID GRIMAN**
   Venezuela 20-2
8. **RICARDO VARGAS**
   Mexico 20-4-3
9. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines 28-1-1
10. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
    Cahokia, IL 11-3

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan 20-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM 24-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **SAEN SOW PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand 22-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. 24-1
5. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico 29-3-2
6. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA 39-5-1
7. **HIROKI IOKA**
   Japan 29-5
8. **CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM**
   Thailand 20-0
9. **FRANCISCO TEJEDOR**
   Colombia 42-3
10. **ENRIQUE OROZCO**
    Mexico 28-4-1

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 41-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ 35-2
3. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea 18-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico 44-4-4
5. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama 27-2
6. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela 28-4-1
7. **YUICHI HOSONO**
   Japan 22-3-1
8. **ERIC GRIFFIN**
   Jasper, TN 14-2
9. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico 27-6
10. **HADAO CP GYM**
    Thailand 24-9-1

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Super Middleweight
3. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
4. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Junior Flyweight
5. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Lightweight
6. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
7. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Junior Welterweight
8. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Flyweight
9. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
10. **RIDDICK BOWE**
    Heavyweight

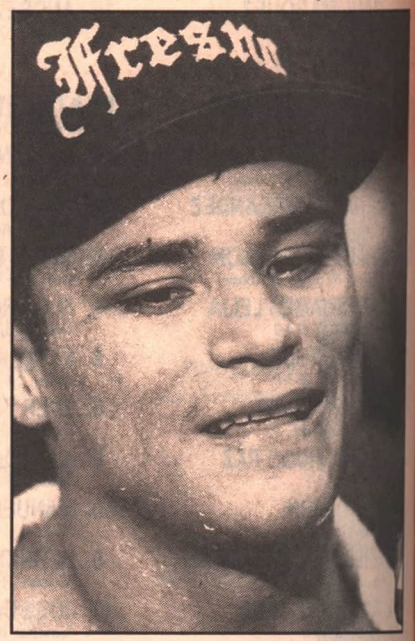
NEW FACES

JESSE MAGANA

Junior Featherweight

Photos by Brent Cook

By Ivan G. Goldman



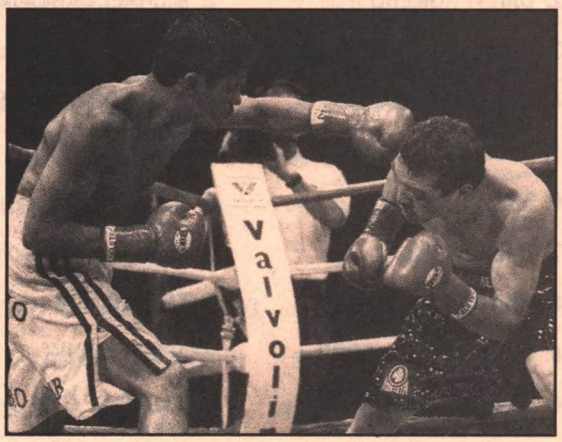
Nobody ever coddled junior featherweight Jesse Magana. Starting at age seven, he worked long days as a field hand in the oven-baked orchards around Fresno, California. This was after his father took off down the road, leaving Magana's mother and her 10 children to fend for themselves.

Magana's poverty stood out even among other poor folks. He later became a champion high school wrestler and was known as one of the toughest streetfighters on the toughest side of town. He never lost on the pavement.

Predictably, when Magana turned pro, he didn't get any setup fights. His handlers threw him into contests, knowing little or nothing about the opponents or their experience. Predictably, Magana lost often, beginning with his pro debut.

After eight starts, Magana was 4-3-1, and on paper, at least, was clearly an opponent, the kind of fighter who limps through a makeshift career with makeshift equipment and preparation. He was destined, it seemed, to become a kid who grows old fast, taking punches for small change while others shoot past him on the express to success.

But something happened on Magana's road to nowhere. Drawing on guts and talent, he screwed himself together and changed his destiny. Now a formidable prospect, this 22-year-old southpaw has risen above his humble start as an unconnected prize fighter, just as he rose above his tough beginnings as an immigrant child from Jalisco, Mexico, who worked the fields of Central California.



Magana bloodies seasoned 122-pounder Max Gomez

Magana, nicknamed *"El Cuervo"* (The Crow), is 8-0-1 over his last nine contests. An aggressive fighter, he can box with grace or slug with abandon. He has become a crowd favorite and main eventer at the Great Western Forum, the venue for most of his bouts.

The turning point for Magana was, ironically, a loss. In August 1993, he dropped a six-round decision to the highly regarded and still-unbeaten Chico Castillo. A polished athlete,

(Continued on page 52)

PRO RECORD

1992		
Feb. 24	Jose Noyola, Inglewood, CA	L 4
March 26	Boni Lara, Irvine, CA	W 4
May 11	Rogelio Sosa, Inglewood	L 4
Aug. 27	Tony Gonzalez, San Diego	KO 3
Sept. 2	Joe Martinez, Bakersfield, CA	KO 4
Nov. 9	Juan Mendoza, Inglewood	D 6
1993		
Jan. 25	Alberto Gonzalez, Inglewood	KO 1
March 5	Paulie Ayala, Dallas	KO by 4
May 18	Francis Vivish, Inglewood	Tech. Win 4
July 12	Juan Mendoza, Inglewood	W 6
Aug. 25	Chico Castillo, Hollywood, CA	L 8
Oct. 16	Bonifacio Lara, Indio, CA	W 8
Oct. 30	Nestor Sanchez, Phoenix	KO 3
1994		
Jan. 31	Melvin Lewis, Inglewood	W 8
April 2	Ernesto Medina, Las Vegas	KO 6
June 13	Antonio Hernandez, Inglewood	KO 3
Aug. 29	Ericel Nucamendi, Inglewood	Tech. Draw 2
1995		
Jan. 9	Rudy Zavala, Inglewood	KO 5
April 10	Max Gomez, Inglewood	W 12
June 12	Ricardo Medina, Inglewood	W 12

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
20	14	4	2	7

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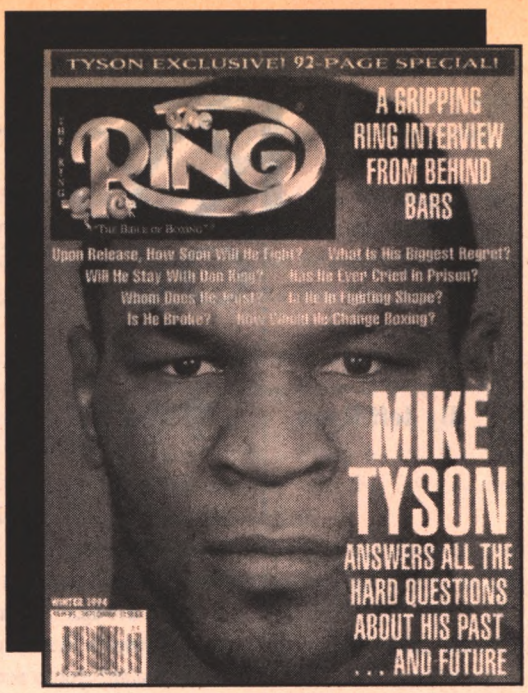

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RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

THE 12-STEP PROGRAM

Roy Jones should be a star of such magnitude that his every move is charted by astronomers, not boxing writers. Talk about appealing traits. Jones has speed, power, a killer instinct, an unblemished record, two world titles, and one very clean lifestyle. Within the past year, he has done a better job of putting away wise guys than the FBI's task force on organized crime. (See W 12 James Toney and KO 6 Vinny Pazienza.) And he has done it all as a free agent. When he speaks, the words come from his head and his heart, not Don King's script.

But Jones is like a musical act that wows critics, wins awards, cultivates a rabid following, and nonetheless remains a stranger to much of the mainstream public. His popularity hasn't yet transcended the fight game because, as Pernell Whitaker can tell you, talent isn't always enough. Sometimes, as Jones has proved, not even talent and flair combined—sparkling showings in sparkling outfits—can make you a household name.

Maybe the Nike commercials Jones is soon to film will turn him into the kind of megastar who is recognized on Main Street, U.S.A., not just the Atlantic City Boardwalk and the Las Vegas Strip. Perhaps the *Sports Illustrated* profile, the one that went on longer than the average training camp, will help to focus the public's telescope on his universe. If not, then Jones and his braintrust are going to have to find other ways to make his star ascend, and they're going to have to be darn creative.

Unless, of course, they elect to consult my road map to superstardom, a specially designed 12-step program that, if carefully followed, will transform Jones into one of the most well-known faces in sports. I ask for little in return for this career-enhancing advice, only that the following line be included in Jones' Hall of Fame speech one day: "Ryan, you made me."

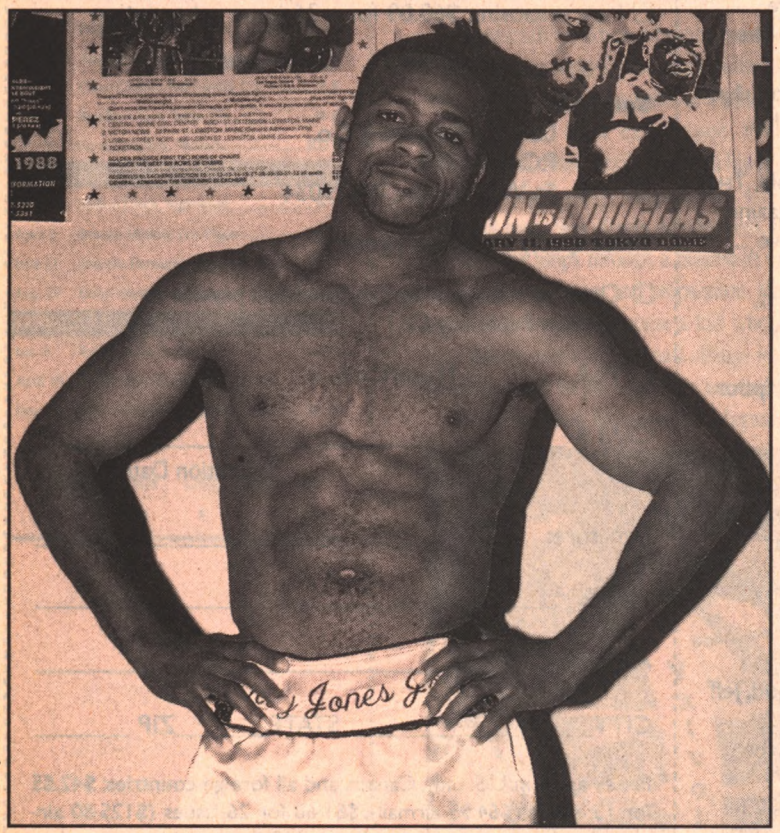


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

"You got a problem with that?" Unbeaten IBF super middleweight champion Roy Jones does things his way, but he hasn't yet established himself as a superstar who transcends boxing. However, with the help of columnist Jeff Ryan …

Okay, Roy, let's take this one step at a time:

1) Go to prison: Sure, it's a radical idea, but trust me, it will make you bigger than ever. A bunch of people who never saw you fight in their lives will wear "FREE ROY JONES" T-shirts simply because supporting a convict will advance their social agendas. Thousands of people who never heard a word of court testimony will proclaim your innocence, and when you get sprung from the joint, Muhammad Ali will pray for you and Rev. Al Sharpton will hold a welcome-home rally back in Pensacola. Three years out of the ring seems like a long time, but if your reflexes slow dramatically, at least your fights won't be so one-sided. And besides, you're going to need plenty of time to plot that pay-per-view comeback bout of the century.

A suggestion: Montell Griffin, August 2000, $149.95 per household, give or take a few bucks.

2) Change your name: Those "Keeping Up With The Joneses" headlines were cute when Dad was still your manager, but ever since you downsized the team by cutting your portly pop loose, the generic-sounding family name has been no career-enhancer. It's time for something new. Kareem Abdul-Jabber has a nice ring to it, no?

3) Fight Kostya Tszyu: Your first reaction is going to be that you can't make 140 pounds. Well, stop eating for a month

you must; it will be worth the sacrifice to get this guy on your resume. ...splanted Russian Tszyu was supposed to be the nastiest thing to come ...of Australia since Rod Laver's slice serve. As weapons of destruction ...he was supposed to rank right up there with Crocodile Dundee's Bowie ...e. Well, against shot Roger Mayweather in June, Tszyu looked about ...hreatening as Olivia Newton-John.

Strangely, though, some boxing experts are still telling the public that ...yu is a future dynamo. You should capitalize on his rep by pounding ...in Pensacola. If you don't, Julio Cesar Chavez or Oscar De La Hoya ...kick his butt all the way to St. Petersburg, and I'm not talking about ...one in Florida.

4) Do more TV commercials: Follow the Nike gig with a phone com...y commercial that shows off your even temperament. In this spot, you ...Roy Sr. to wish him a Happy Father's Day, he hangs up on you, and ...turn to the camera and say, "Long distance, the next best thing to ...g there."

5) Get that Olympic medal you were unjustly denied: Only this time, ...it in *basketball*. Dream Team III figures to be so strong that it can ...y you as the 12th man, and you're sure to get lots of playing time dur... those 75-point routs of Luxembourg and Paraguay next summer. While ...re hooping it up, try to be seen around Grant Hill as much as possi...—it's great for the image. And speaking of Grant Hill, as soon as you ...home from Atlanta, grant Hill, Tiozzo, Maske, and Benn big-money ...ts.

6) Go on strike: If Donald Fehr can become a household name, there ...t be something to this.

7) Become the first boxer to start his own weight class: The light light ...yweight division—the WBC prefers to call it super super mid...eight—would include fighters from 170 to 172 pounds, perfect for guys too small to make light heavyweight and too big to fight at super middleweight. All right, so this might not boost your popularity with the fans, but once the sanctioning fees start pouring in, the ruling bodies will adore you.

8) Hawk boxing merchandise on the Home Shopping Network: Target the daytime viewing hours so you can increase your appeal with the female audience. If you don't tell the ladies that the autographed cups you're peddling for $50 apiece aren't the kind you drink from, then I won't tell them either.

9) Singlehandedly force advances in technology: If you fire your combinations any faster, somebody is going to have to invent BlurStat to track your punches. And just think of the great publicity that would bring. Maybe the time for such an invention is already at hand. Don't believe the guys working the PunchStat computer when they say they can actually chart every one of your shots with certainty.

10) Write your autobiography: The title can refer to all the damage you've inflicted with that screaming right uppercut. Call it *The Bridgework Of Madison County*.

11) Become a heavyweight: Isn't that what everyone plans to do anyway these days? Pitting your reflexes against George Foreman's would really be something to see. It would probably look like you guys were playing two different sports.

12) Enter ESPN2's "World's Fastest Hands" competition: A great opportunity to introduce yourself to a whole new cross-section of sports junkies. The other competitors are magician David Copperfield, guitarist Eddie Van Halen, and a Times Square pickpocket. Events include fly-swatting, catching a Drew Bledsoe spiral fired from five years away, and re-enacting the Lucy Ricardo-Ethel Mertz conveyor belt scene at the candy factory. What do you say, Roy? Piece of cake, er, chocolate? ■

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

...es tells the world he's changing his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabber. Or that he plans on playing for Dream Team III. Or that he's jumping to heavy...ght. From a marketing standpoint, the possibilities for a guy who is 26 and has already won two titles are endless.

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

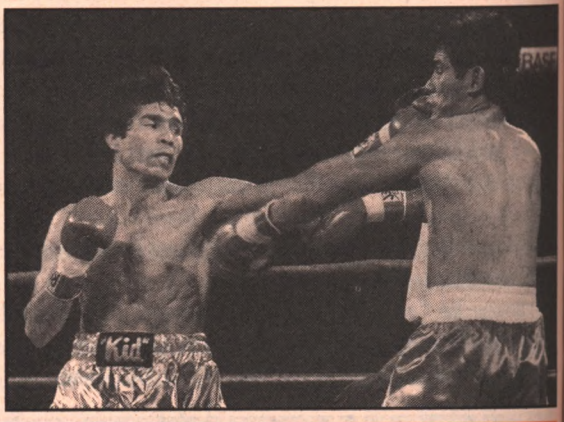
PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: MIGHTY MITES FROM MEXICO

1

We're spotting you this champion's nickname. How much more do you want? Okay, we'll give you this: He won the title in one of the wildest—and briefest—fights of the '80s.

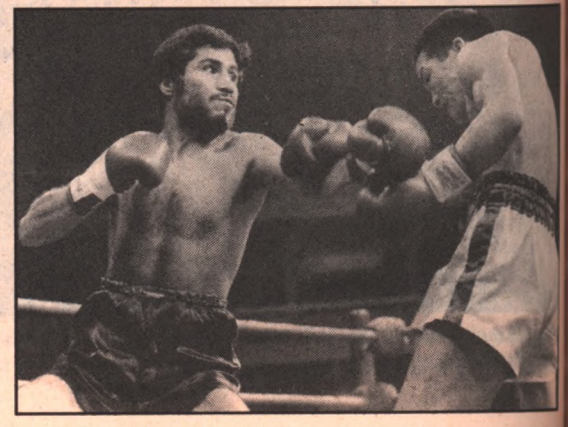


2

Bad idea for a photo: The champion in question didn't have the strongest chin in the world. He was a big puncher, though; either he got you or you got him.

3

This Mexican won the world featherweight title, lost it within six months, and never contended again. At one point, he scored 25 kayos in 27 victories.



YOUR BOXING IQ

4

This Mexican puncher (is that redundant?) won the world title in the '70s, and toward the end of his career. All five of his world title fights ended by knockout.

5

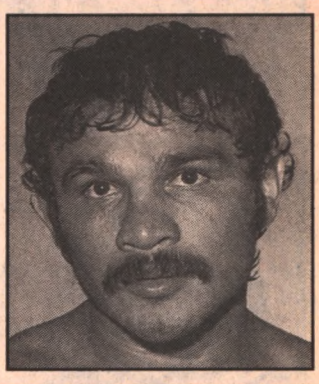
While Mexico is best known for producing bantam champs, there have been some outstanding flys as well. This world titlist won the crown in Mexico City and lost it in Bangkok.

6

We'll never know how long this power-punching 118-pounder (20 kayo wins in his first 20 fights) might've reigned had a certain "Z-Boy" not come along.

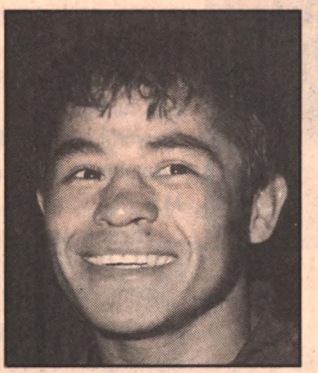
7

An underrated champion, he is one of only a handful of Mexicans to win world titles in more than one division. However, his two reigns lasted a total of only seven months.



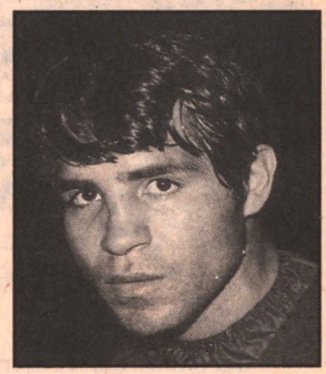
8

This world champion engaged in one of the greatest national rivalries in Mexican boxing history. Funny thing is, all three of his bouts against his arch-rival were held in the USA.



9

A world champion during the golden age of Mexican banties, this boxer-puncher reigned twice in the early-'70s.



10

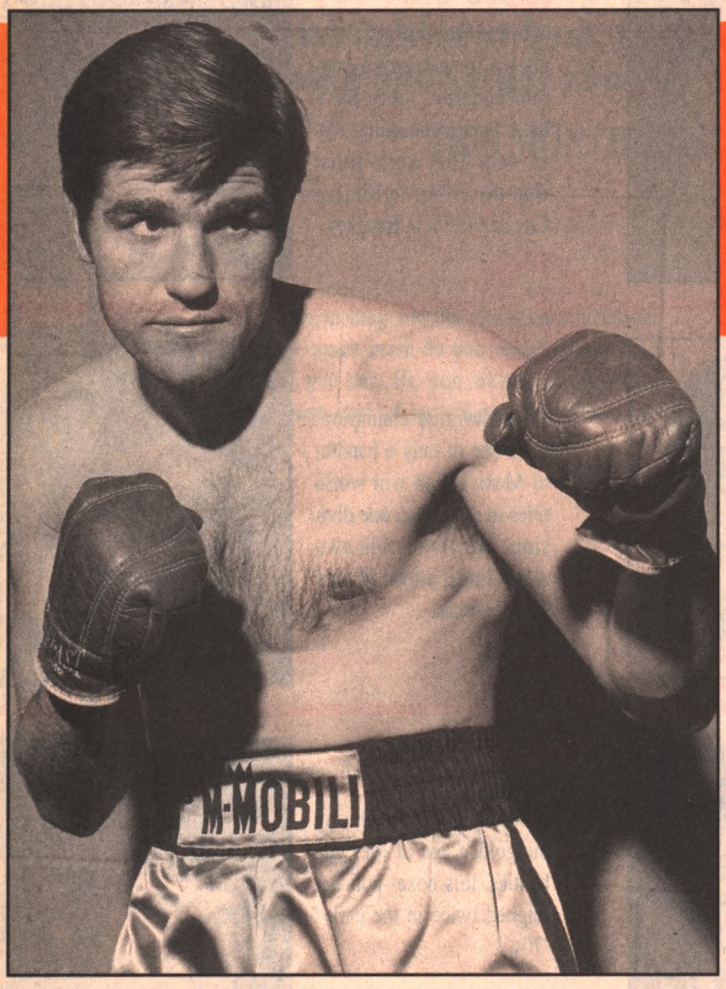
Among the first Mexican bantie champs, this 79-bout veteran from Guadalajara made two defenses, then vacated the title and retired.

ANSWERS:

1) Juan Meza
2) Romeo Anaya
3) Clemente Sanchez
4) Rodolfo Gonzalez
5) Alacran Torres
6) Rodolfo Martinez
7) Freddy Castillo
8) Chucho Castillo
9) Rafael Herrera
10) Jose Becerra

The Best Of A Nation

The All-Time Top 10 Of Italy



Nino Benvenuti: The best Italian-born boxer of all-time

By Brian Doogan

Who was the best British fighter of all-time? The best Mexican? The best Japanese? The debate will rage forever. In an attempt to fuel the fire, or at least offer some perspective, THE RING has asked several of its correspondents to compile their personal top-10 lists.

1. Nino Benvenuti
2. Duilio Loi
3. Bruno Arcari
4. Johnny Dundee
5. Tiberio Mitri
6. Sandro Mazzinghi
7. Salvatore Burruni
8. Mario D'Agata
9. Vito Antuofermo
10. Rocky Mattioli

•**Nino Benvenuti** capped a superb amateur career by striking Olympic gold in 1960, and his pro endeavors yielded two world titles. A speedy and stylish boxer with great skills, Benvenuti was lauded by Italian fans. He knocked out countryman Sandro Mazzinghi in 1965 to lift the WBC super welterweight title, and two years later outpointed Emile Griffith to take the middleweight championship. However, Carlos Monzon twice stopped Benvenuti, prompting the Italian's retirement. Career record: 82-7-1 (35).

•**Duilio Loi** stopped only 25 opponents in 14 years, yet lost only three of 125 bouts. The remarkable 5'4½" Italian won the national lightweight title, two European crowns, and the world junior welterweight championship from Carlos Ortiz. In all, he defeated Ortiz in two of three bouts and split a pair of title fights with Eddie Perkins. Their 1962 rematch, in which Loi regained the world 140-pound title, was the Italian's last bout. He retired as champion at age 33, having never been stopped. Career record: 115-3-8 (25).

•**Bruno Arcari** was twice stopped in his first two years as a pro, but went unbeaten thereafter. A concussive puncher, he seized the European junior welter title before outscoring Filipino Pedro Adigue to lift the WBC title. He made eight defenses before vacating, and defeated, among others, Joao Henrique, Everaldo Costa Azevedo, Jorgen Hansen, Harold Weston Jr., and David Love. The 5'5" southpaw kept the title for more than four years and went unbeaten through the last 61 bouts of his career. Career record: 70-2-1 (38).

•**Johnny Dundee** (real name Giuseppe Carrora) counterbalanced a lack of power with extraordinary displays of heart and stamina. His forte was to reel back on the ropes and use them as a catapult to land surprise blows. After engaging in a chain of no-decision contests, he became world junior lightweight champion with a fifth-round foul victory over George "KO" Chaney in 1921. He lost the crown to Jack Bernstein, then staged his most impressive performance to lift the world featherweight title from Frenchman Eugene Criqui. He also regained the 130-pound crown from Bernstein and remained active until age 41. Career record: 230-69-33 (22) with 4 no-decisions and 1 no-contest.

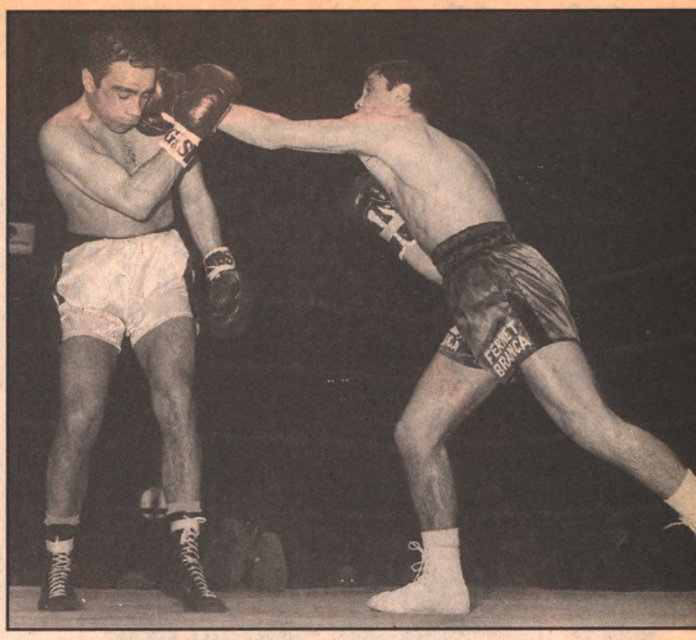
•**Tiberio Mitri** went unbeaten in his first four years, and through 50 contests. He won the Italian title in 1948, then secured the European crown from Cyrille Dellannoit. In 1950, the Italian, a substitute for Rocky Graziano, was summoned for a try at world champion Jake LaMotta. Mitri performed with distinction but failed to emerge with the decision. He followed with a one-round demolition of Randy Turpin to regain European honors, but was never given another world title try. Career record: 86-6-6 (22) with 1 no-contest.

•**Sandro Mazzinghi** might have enjoyed more success had his career not crossed paths with Benvenuti. In 1963, he became WBC 154-pound champion by stopping Ralph Dupas in nine rounds. The rematch confirmed the ever-aggressive titlist's superiority, but Benvenuti beckoned, and Mazzinghi was stopped in six rounds, then outpointed six months later. With characteristic resilience, he rebounded to regain the title against Benvenuti's conqueror, Ki Soo Kim. After retaining the title vs. Freddie Little, he was stripped. Career record: 64-3 (42) with 2 no-contests.

•**Salvatore Burruni** was boxing's last unified world flyweight champion. He won the national title in his second year as a pro. Strong, tough, and vigorous, he proved as good as any 112-pounder during the '60s. He captured the European title in 1961, and made five defenses, including a verdict over gifted Scot Walter McGowan. After dethroning world champion Pone Kingpetch, he made one defense before again encountering McGowan, who exacted revenge by decision. Two years later, he won the European 118-pound crown. He retired as titleholder in 1969. Career record: 99-9-1 (31).

•**Mario D'Agata** is the only deaf-mute world champion in history. A strong puncher, he won the national bantamweight title in 1953, then, two years later, added European honors. In 1956, the diminutive Italian, who stood only 5'1¾", blasted out Robert Cohen to win the world title. His reign was short-lived, as Alphonse Halimi decisioned him 10 months later. He rebounded to regain the European crown and retired in 1962. Career record: 55-9-3 (22).

•**Vito Antuofermo** compensated for distinct limitations by grinding out victories through sheer stubborn resolve. Troubled by soft tissue around his eyes, he often fought with blood obscuring his vision. In 1976, he took the European junior middleweight title with a points win over Eckhard Dagge, but lost it to Maurice Hope later that year. Rising in weight, he outpointed Hugo Corro in 1979 to become world 160-pound champion. He fortuitously got a draw in a defense against Marvin Hagler,

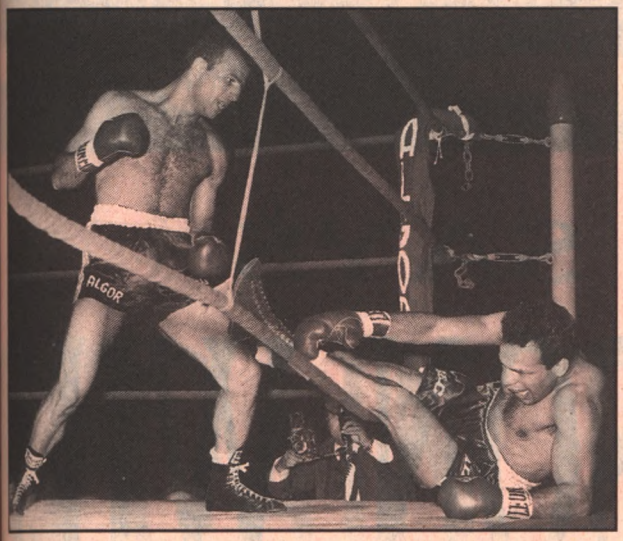


Bruno Arcari connects against Pablo Lopez

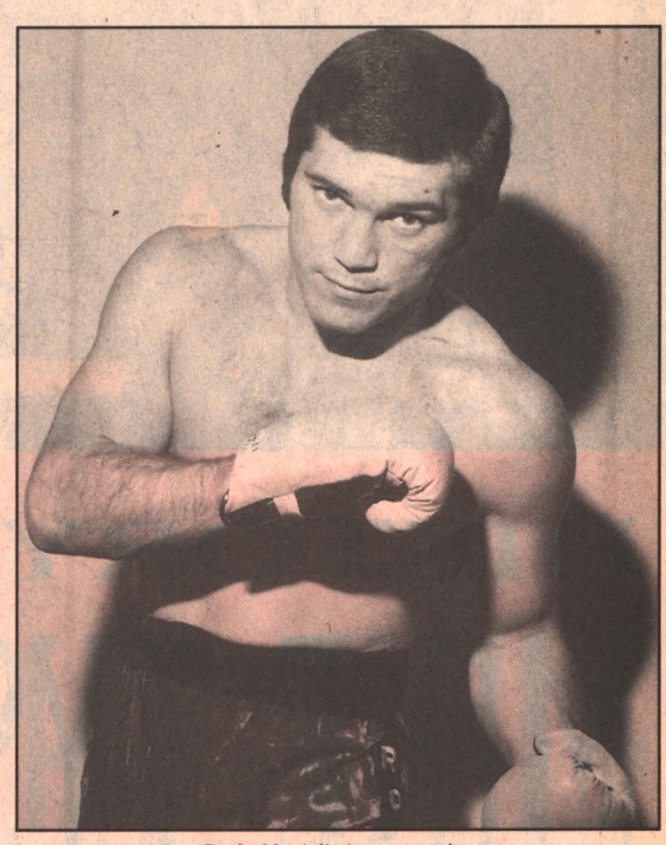
but was twice beaten by Alan Minter before Hagler gained bloody revenge. Career mark: 50-7-2 (21).

•**Rocky Mattioli** was among the heaviest hitters in Italian boxing history. Engaging in his early bouts in Australia, he won that national welter title before returning home in 1975. Two years later, he was WBC 154-pound champion after knocking out Germany's Eckhard Dagge in five rounds. He made two defenses before twice succumbing to Maurice Hope. Career record: 63-7-2 (50). ■

Brian Doogan is* THE RING'S *correspondent for Europe.

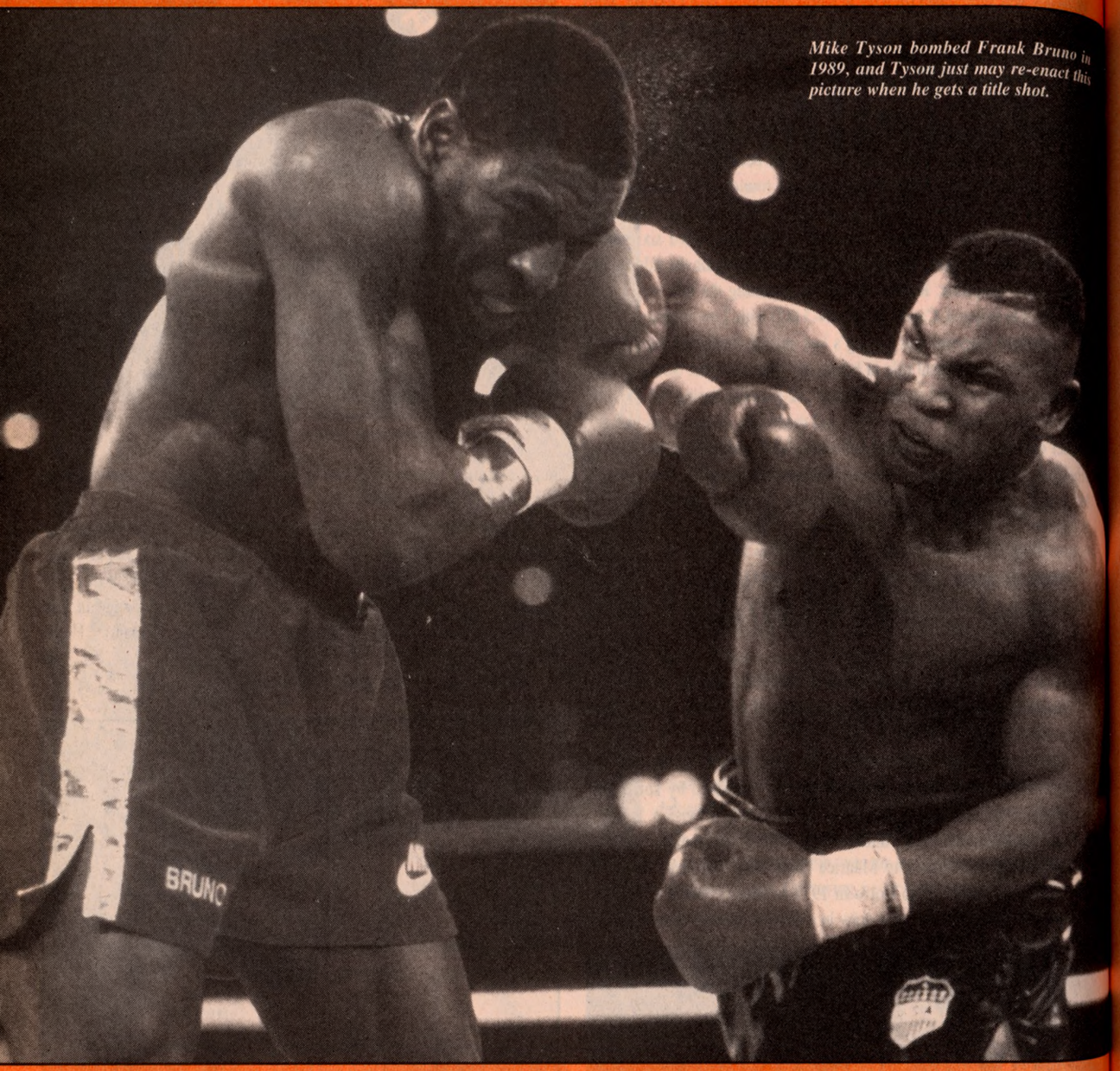


Sandro Mazzinghi kayos Ralph Dupas



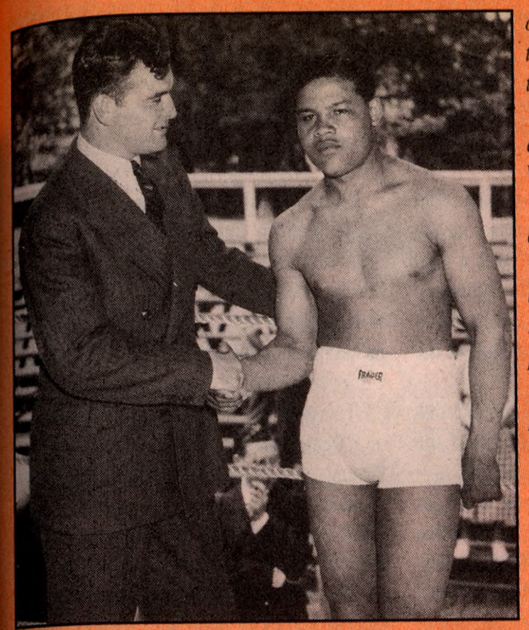
Rocky Mattioli: A pure puncher

Challengers But Hardly Underdogs



Mike Tyson bombed Frank Bruno in 1989, and Tyson just may re-enact this picture when he gets a title shot.

HISTORY SAYS MIKE TYSON WILL REGAIN THE TITLE



If clothes made the man, heavyweight champion Jim Braddock would have been favored to defeat Joe Louis. But "The Brown Bomber" was a 5-2 favorite, and as it turned out, he should've been 52-1; he kayoed Braddock in the eighth round.

By Nigel Collins

Boxing logic is so illogical. If the champion were the best fighter in the division, the title would never change hands. Of course that's not the case; titles are won and lost on a regular basis. Nonetheless, defending champions are routinely installed as prefight favorites. Just like in politics, the incumbent usually gets an automatic edge. But not always.

It doesn't happen too often, but every now and then a challenger is heavily favored to take the belt. And it's about to happen again. As we went to press, Bruce Seldon was scheduled to defend the WBA heavyweight title against Joe Hipp on the Mike Tyson-Peter McNeeley card in Las Vegas. According to reliable sources, if Tyson dispatches massive underdog McNeeley as effortlessly as expected, his next fight will be against the Seldon-Hipp winner. And regardless of whether it's Seldon or Hipp in the opposite corner, Tyson figures to be a prohibitive favorite.

"I'd make Tyson 6-1 over either Seldon or Hipp," said Las Vegas oddsmaker Herb Lambeck. "And that's being conservative. It could go to 8-1 or higher."

Even though it's rare, the-champion-as-underdog phenomenon has always been an intriguing part of boxing. Interestingly, of the 10 cases reviewed here, the champion lost the title every time. Boxing logic may be an oxymoron, but in this case, it's probably safe to start calling Iron Mike "champ" again.

•

Joe Louis vs. James J. Braddock, June 22, 1937: Officially, Louis was only a 5-2 favorite to take the heavyweight title away from Braddock. He should have been 100-1. But it seems that at the time not even the bookmakers were hip to just how good Louis was. Remember, "The Brown Bomber" had suffered a devastating kayo at the hands of Max Schmeling.

Braddock had been a staggering 10-1 underdog when he upset Max Baer to win the title in June '35. Until he outpointed the talented but erratic Baer, Braddock was considered little more than a journeyman. Winning the title had catapulted "The Cinderella Man" into a higher tax bracket, but he remained a fighter of modest ability who had already suffered 25 losses prior to wiping the smile off "Madcap Max's" face.

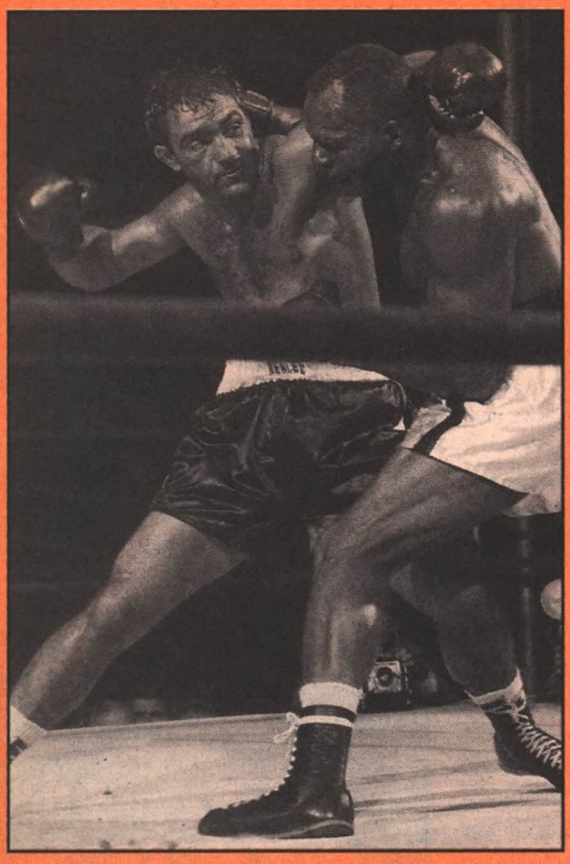
In some respects, Braddock's situation was similar to that of two of today's claimants to the throne, WBC champion Oliver McCall and WBA boss Bruce Seldon. But instead of babysitting pieces of the title, Braddock was caretaker of the whole enchilada, and Louis the heir-apparent.

In the first round, Braddock almost again upset the odds, dropping Louis with a right. But the challenger got up and administered a merciless beating the rest of the way, finally sending Braddock down for the full count 1:10 into the eighth round.

•

Ray Robinson vs. Jake LaMotta, February 14, 1951: Several factors made Robinson, then welterweight champion, a 7-2 favorite to win the middleweight title, not the least of which was the fact that he had won four of his five previous meetings with LaMotta. Still, LaMotta had always given a rousing

Having defeated Jake LaMotta four of five times, Sugar Ray Robinson was a 7-2 favorite to dethrone the middleweight champion. Bout six, "The St. Valentine's Day Massacre," was more competitive than the nickname would suggest.



Despite a perfect record, Rocky Marciano was only a slight favorite to take the heavyweight title from Jersey Joe Walcott. Walcott was older and wiser than The Rock, and he led on points before being stopped in round 13.

account of himself, and besides handing Sugar Ray his first pro defeat in their second encounter, "The Bronx Bull" had floored him in their third fight.

Stats aside, LaMotta was generally considered past his prime. He was also having trouble making the 160-pound division limit and received special permission to weigh in at 10 a.m. the day of the fight, two hours earlier than the then-standard 12 noon, just in case he needed the extra time to sweat off excess baggage. LaMotta made weight his first trip to the scales, but later claimed to have drained himself in doing so.

The match turned out to be another war, with LaMotta holding his own until tiring following an 11th-round rally. After that, Robinson took control, pummeling the defending champion so severely that referee Frank Sikora was forced to call a halt 2:04 into the 14th round, with the stubborn LaMotta still on his feet.

•

Rocky Marciano vs. Jersey Joe Walcott, September 23, 1952: Until George Foreman lowered the boom on Michael Moorer last year, Walcott was the heavyweight division's reigning Methuselah, having won the title at age 37 with a kayo of Ezzard Charles. But Marciano was no Axel Schulz, and he didn't believe in leaving his fate in the hands of the judges.

Walcott's age and the fact that The Rock was the Tyson of the 1950s (inside the ring, anyway) made the challenger a slight favorite. Of course, there were those who figured Marciano was just a tough guy with an inflated record, but they hadn't faced him in the ring.

Though the oddsmakers eventually proved correct, the fight turned out to be a see-saw classic. Walcott decked Marciano with a left hook—the same punch he had used to win the title—in the opening round and carved several cuts into the challenger's face during the ensuing stanzas.

Marciano, who had an unnerving ability to absorb punishment, never stopped coming, but was still trailing on all three cards going into the 13th round. Early in that round, he drove Walcott into the ropes and connected with a flush right to the jaw. *Boom! Thud!* Walcott collapsed and was counted out at the 43-second mark.

•

Sonny Liston vs. Floyd Patterson, September 25, 1962: This was a case where even the defending champion knew he was doomed. Why else would Patterson have gone to the fight toting a disguise in his gym bag, including a fake beard and mustache? Winners don't need to hide.

The ominous Liston had been the number-one contender for almost two years, and Patterson's manager, Cus D'Amato, had adroitly avoided defending against the fearsome slugger. Finally, public pressure and Patterson's sense of honor prevailed, and the match was made.

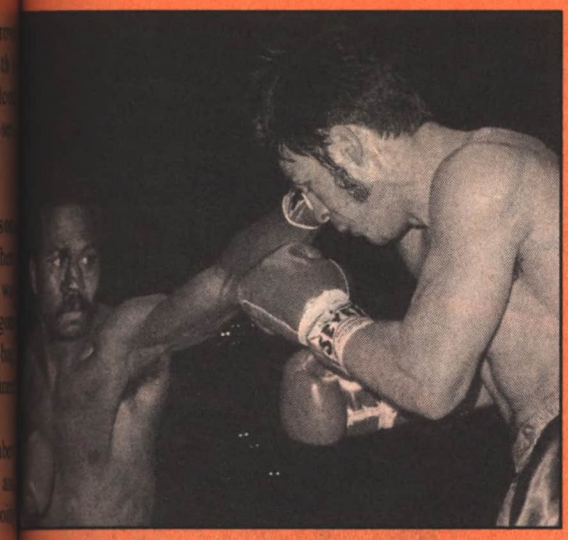
The fact that Liston was only a slender favorite had more to do with wishful thinking than insightful analysis. He was an ex-con with mob connections, and not the sort of fighter who endeared himself to middle America.

The fight? Well, in the words of Jack London (covering the Jack Johnson-Tommy Burns mismatch in 1908), there was no fight. Liston softened up Patterson with a couple of body shots and then disposed of him with a left hook. It was over just 2:06 into the first round.

•

Jose Napoles vs. Billy Backus, June 4, 1971: There was no accidental head-butt rule

Had Floyd Patterson known what was going to transpire in his two bouts with Sonny Liston, he might've stayed on the scale—and out of the ring. Liston, who had been waiting for a title shot for years, needed 126 seconds to take the title.



Was Billy Backus' welterweight title fight victory over Jose Napoles a fluke? The oddsmakers thought so, and Napoles, a 2-1 favorite, proved them right by overcoming a bad cut and regaining the title by eighth-round TKO.

back in the '70s. Therefore, no one summoned the scorecards when referee Jack Milichich stopped the first Napoles-Backus fight 55 seconds into the fourth round. Both men were bleeding profusely from facial lacerations, but it was local hero Backus who was declared the winner and new welterweight champion via TKO.

"Backus was just as badly cut as Napoles was," protested the Cuban's manager, Cuco Conde, to no avail.

Almost everybody but Backus' upstate New York fans knew it had been a fluke, and the former champion was duly installed as a 2-1 choice to win the rematch. Another factor in Napoles' favor was that the second fight was held at the Fabulous Forum in Inglewood, California, instead of the War Memorial Auditorium in Syracuse, New York, the site of Backus' bloody victory the previous year.

Nearly 15,000 fans turned out to see Napoles get his revenge, and they were not disappointed. "Mantequilla" delivered a virtuoso performance from the start and dropped Backus twice in the eighth before the fight was stopped 1:53 into the round.

•

Muhammad Ali vs. Leon Spinks, September 15, 1978: History might have been a lot different had Spinks not partied away most of the six months between his two fights with Ali. But following his astonishing 15-round split decision victory in February, he did his best to live up to his "Neon Leon" image. As a result, he entered the ring at the New Orleans Superdome poorly conditioned and totally unfocused.

Ali, on the other hand, trained harder than he had in several years. He'd badly underestimated Spinks the first time and was determined to become the first three-time heavyweight champion in history.

Spinks' wild lifestyle was public knowledge, and that, combined with Ali's colossal popularity, was enough to make "The Greatest" both the sentimental and betting favorite.

Though the record-shattering crowd of 63,532 was not treated to vintage Ali (that would have been asking too much), it saw a far better fighter than the lethargic version who had blown the title to a seven-bout novice. Ali danced a bit, eschewed the punishing rope-a-dope, and landed enough jabs and straight rights to befuddle Spinks and win a unanimous decision.

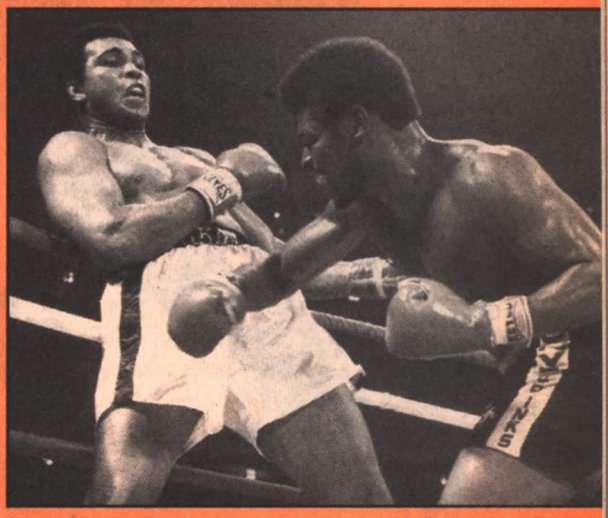
Jim Watt was an underrated lightweight champion, and fighting on his side of the pond, he proved troublesome in his defense against the heavily favored Alexis Arguello. But the Nicaraguan nonetheless scored a knockdown and won on points.

•

Alexis Arguello vs. Jim Watt, June 20, 1981: You'd think that being a respected champion with four defenses to Watt's credit would have been enough to have made him the favorite, especially when the fight was held 3,000 miles closer to his hometown than the challenger's. But not when the challenger is a fighter of Arguello's stature.

"The Explosive Thin Man" from Nicaragua had already won titles in two weight classes (featherweight and junior lightweight) by the time he challenged Watt for the WBC lightweight title at London's Wembley Arena. Among his victims had been such outstanding fighters as Ruben Olivares, Alfredo Escalera, Bobby Chacon, and Cornelius Boza-Edwards. And with a resume like that, there wasn't a 135-pounder in the world who would have been favored to beat him.

The stoic Scot tried his best to keep Arguello off with his southpaw jab, but just didn't have the firepower to do more than survive. Arguello dominated, scoring the bout's only knockdown in the seventh when he floored Watt with a left hook. Even the disposed champion couldn't find fault with the 15-round unanimous decision that gave Arguello the title.



"Neon Leon" Spinks wasn't bright enough to keep the heavyweight title; in his rematch with Muhammad Ali, he was soundly outboxed over 15 rounds. Focused and well-conditioned, Ali won the crown for a record third time.

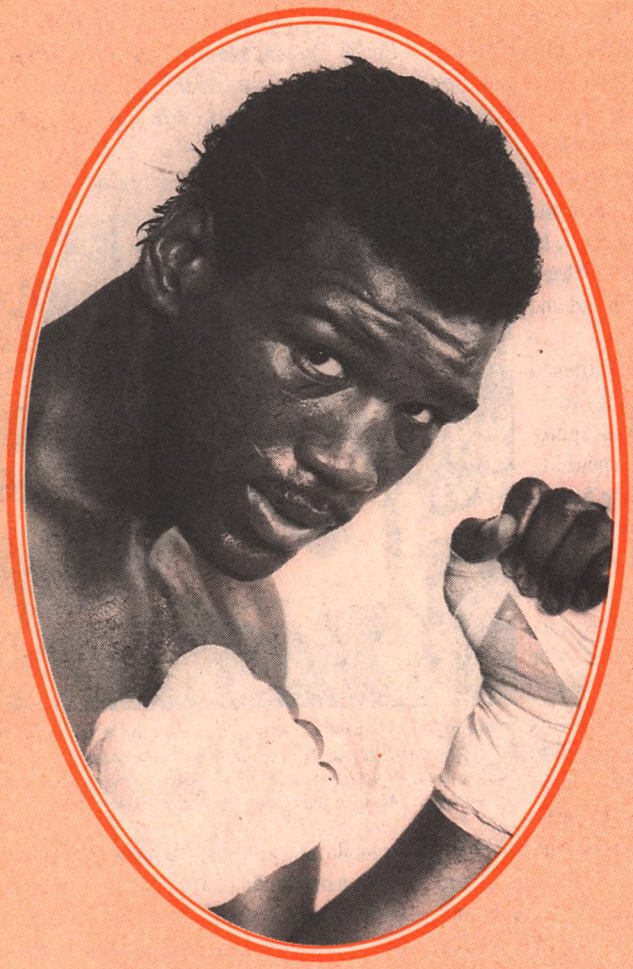
"I have absolutely no complaints," said Watt. "But I didn't lose to a palooka."

•

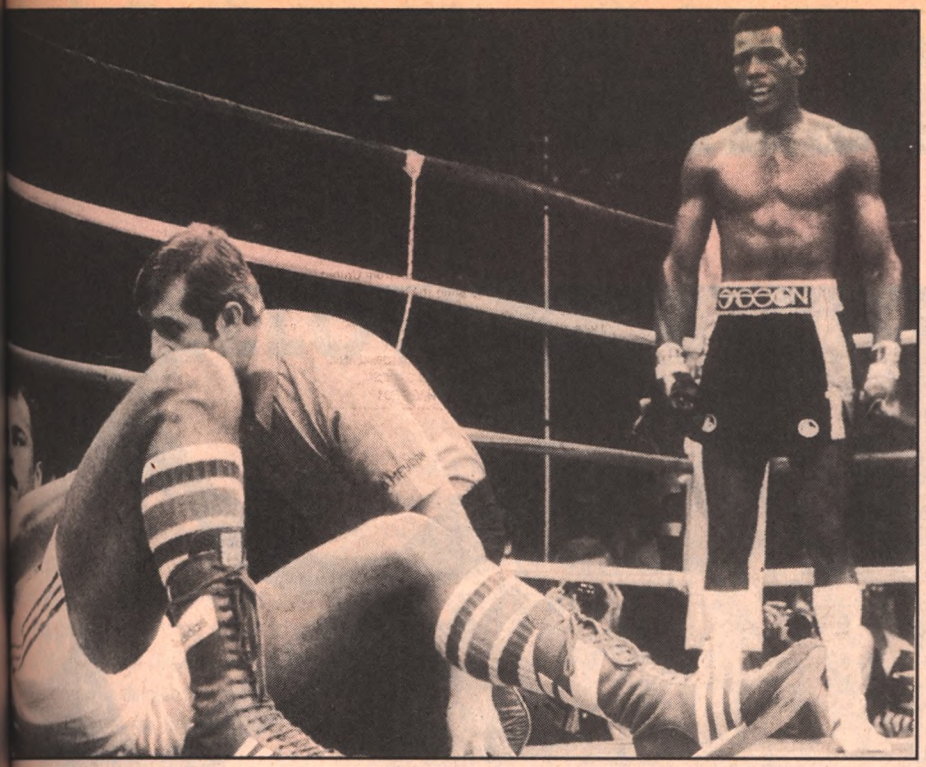
Mike Tyson vs. Trevor Berbick, November 22, 1986: This one was such a foregone conclusion, Tyson was being treated like the champion *before* he beat defending WBC champion Berbick. Forget the fact that Iron Mike had yet to defeat a legitimate world-class fighter. He didn't have to. Anybody who had

(Continued on page 60)

WHAT IF...



MATTHEW SAAD MUHAMMAD vs. JAMES SCOTT



Though known for soaking up punishment before rallying, Saad Muhammad was also capable of scoring blowouts, as John Conteh discovered in their 1980 rematch. The Englishman fell in four rounds.

Most of boxing's best matchups are realized. But not all of them. For a variety of reasons, including timing, injuries, and promotional concerns, the fights we most want to see—the fights that could change history—sometimes fail to materialize. When that happens, we're left with our imaginations, which makes for never-ending conjecture and delightful debate.

With the help of Jim Trunzo, boxing's foremost computer programmer, and TKO Professional Boxing, by Lance Haffner Games, The Ring has once again decided to play matchmaker. (In 1991, Trunzo helped us with "The Ring All-Time Computer Tournament.")

The computer program runs in compiled BASIC and consists of several thousand lines of code. More than two-dozen routines and subroutines cross-check such factors as ring position, the fighters' physical condition, accumulated damage, status of cuts, and special strategy, if any, that is used. In addition, almost 100 variables are constantly monitored during a given fight.

We've presented Trunzo with a handful of dream matchups, fights that could have taken place but never did. His program considers more than 100 variables, and he runs the matchups through his computer 20 times each. What if Jack Dempsey had fought Harry Wills? What if Roberto Duran had fought Alexis Arguello? What if Rocky Marciano had fought Floyd Patterson? Here are some of the answers.

THE WAY IT WAS

When the curtain came down on 1979, two divisions clearly boasted more depth and potentially attractive matchups than any others. The top slot belonged to the welterweights, with a lineup that included Pipino Cuevas, Wilfred Benitez, Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, and Roberto Duran. Light heavyweight was the other division boasting impressive talent from slots one through 10. WBC king Matthew Saad Muhammad and WBA boss Marvin Johnson were thrill-a-minute bombers; Eddie Gregory possessed a deadly right hand; Victor Galindez, John Conteh, and Yaqui Lopez, while just past their primes, were still legitimate threats; Mike Rossman and Mate Parlov were former titleholders awaiting another shot at the crown; and James Scott and Lotte Mwale clamored for recognition.

And no one clamored louder than Scott.

Scott had burst onto the scene in 1974, going 10-0-1 in his first 11 fights, including a win over tough veteran Jesse Burnett. But the Burnett win, in early-1975, was to be Scott's last fight—in the ring—for almost three years. Scott's out-of-the-ring battle was with the legal system, and the undefeated light heavy lost big in that contest. In 1975, he took up residence at Rahway State Prison in New Jersey after being convicted of

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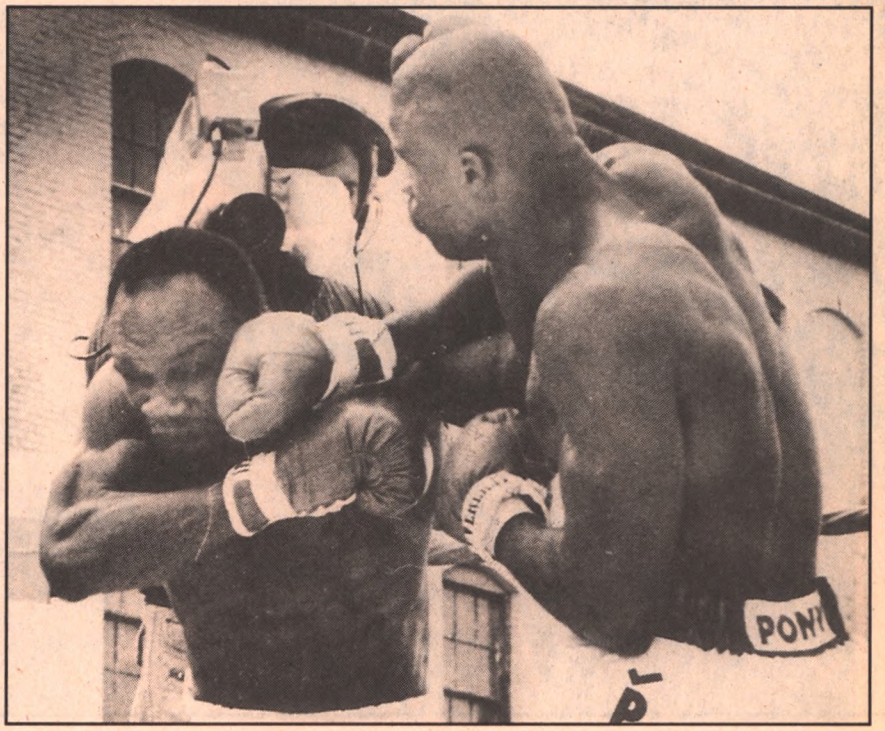


Among the victims during Scott's unlikely run toward the top of the division was Bunny Johnson, who lasted seven rounds. Most of Scott's major victories came at Rahway State Prison.

HOMELESS HAITIAN ANCEE GEDEON

HIS PILLOW IS A TURNBUCKLE

Photo by Brent Cook

By **Bruce Williams**

It seems as if the sharks have always been circling Ancee Gedeon, waiting to devour him as he struggled to find happiness, success, and peace. There were the sharks of the Gulf of Mexico, when Gedeon was a nine-year-old boy making the dangerous trek from Haiti to the USA as part of the boat people flotilla of 1980. There were the deadly sharks of the streets, in Florida and Arizona and California, tempting a young teen who had neither home nor family. And there were the sharks of boxing, who, if they found Gedeon to be weak, would chew him up and spit him out if it suited their fancy.

But survivors aren't weak. And now, in a story a Hollywood scriptwriter would never dare dream of, Gedeon is finding that what doesn't destroy you makes you stronger.

Gedeon began his incredible streak of upset wins by outpointing former world champion Robert Quiroga in January. At one point, Gedeon lost six of eight fights.

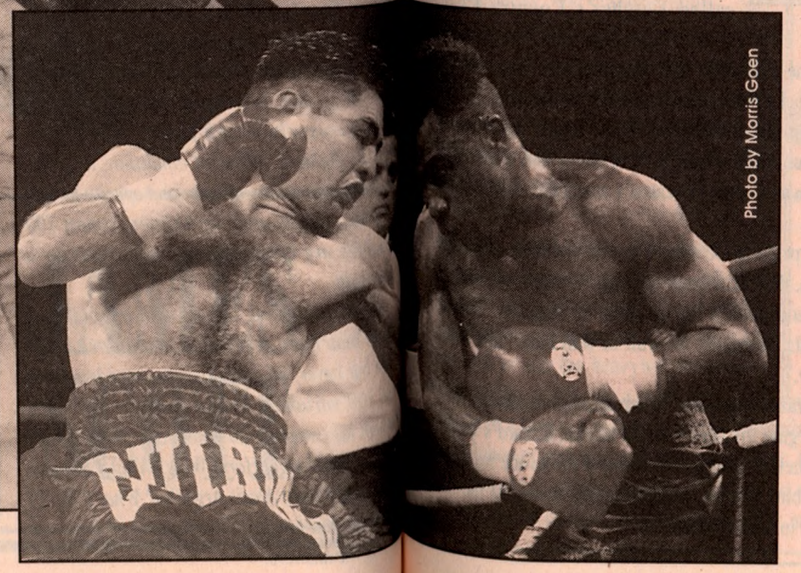


Photo by Morris Goen

Ask Robert Quiroga, a former IBF junior bantamweight champion whom Gedeon retired with an eight-round decision victory in January. Ask Joel Luna Zarate, a rising young Mexican who was headed toward a world title shot until Gedeon capsized his plans in April. And ask Sergio Reyes, who held the USBA bantamweight title and the number-one ranking of the IBF until dropping a one-sided 12-round decision to Gedeon on June 20 in Reyes' hometown of Fort Worth, Texas.

The USA Network was on hand to chronicle Reyes' march toward his second world title fight. Instead, the revelation was Gedeon; he dropped Reyes in the first and 11th rounds as a crowd of 4,600 at the Will Rogers Coliseum watched in stunned disbelief. And when the well-earned decision went to Gedeon, 13-7-1 (4), the newcomer received a standing ovation.

Gedeon can't honestly tell you when he was born; all the fighter's records were lost between the boat flotilla and his early days in Miami Beach. (Manager and trainer Jesse Reid is trying to get him a new birth certificate.) "I was born in the countryside in a place called Okai, and I was raised in Port-au-Prince," Gedeon said two days after his upset of Reyes.

Gedeon was speaking from the Westminster (California) Boxing Club, a self-supporting,

(Continued on page 52)

Photo by Brent Cook

Veteran trainer and manager Jesse Reid has supported Haiti-native Gedeon throughout his tough times. The two are now seeking a shot at the world bantamweight title.

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

TOO MUCH, TOO SOON

At his mountain training camp 10 days before his classic title brawl with heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano, Ezzard Charles found comfort playing with adoring youngsters.

(June 9, 1954)

The fight was still a week away, and those accountable for the former heavyweight champion's welfare were worried. Ezzard Charles had reached perfection too soon. He was as finely tuned as a concert piano. Not a hint of slack remained. Charles' manager, Tom Tannas, muttered, "I wish the fight was tonight." Chief sparring partner Gene Jones shook away the cobwebs after working three rounds with the former champion and told trainer Jimmy Brown, "He's already running on all 12 [cylinders]."

The concern was very real. The masterful Ray Arcel used to say, "Training fighters is like cooking eggs. Only perfection is acceptable. One second, more or less either way, and both the egg and the fighter are either undone or overdone."

High in New York State's Catskill Mountains, at a resort hotel called Kutcher's Country Club, Charles, who had been world heavyweight champion from 1949 to 1951, honed his sleek, magnificent physique as he confidently geared up to knock aside the one roadblock that separated him from his old throne—the guy sitting on it, undefeated block of granite Rocky Marciano. At age 32 (officially), 33, 34, or 36 (more accurately), Charles had been beaten three times since losing the title to Jersey Joe Walcott and didn't really deserve the title shot. But in boxing's curious world, where service above and beyond the call of duty is rewarded in curious ways, Ezzard's reward was to test Marciano's awesome power. That and an estimated $100,000 paycheck.

Charles' training pattern was adjusted to compensate for peaking too soon. His diet included additional protein to increase weight. The plan was to slow him down, then accelerate to bring him into the ring in optimum condition. Cut sparring sessions by 50 percent, and modify the schedule as required. Tannas came up with the idea to have Ezzard mingle with hotel guests, especially the wall-to-wall kids. "Ezz loves kids," Tannas said. "Being around them will be great therapy."

The plan worked perfectly. Charles came into the ring razor-sharp and in remarkable condition for a man his age. Though he failed to become the first man to regain the heavyweight throne, Ezzard's courageous performance against the bruising Marciano was nonetheless historic. He brawled toe-to-toe throughout the 15 rounds, standing his ground, absorbing brain-numbing bombs, but never going down. At the finish, both champion and challenger looked like they had been in a train wreck.

GROUND-BREAKING FOR THE GLORY ROAD

(December 4, 1941)

The day before Boston's trigger-tempered Irishman, Tom McNeeley Jr., was scheduled to assault heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson in a title bash in Toronto, this was the bookmaker rap sheet on the challenger:

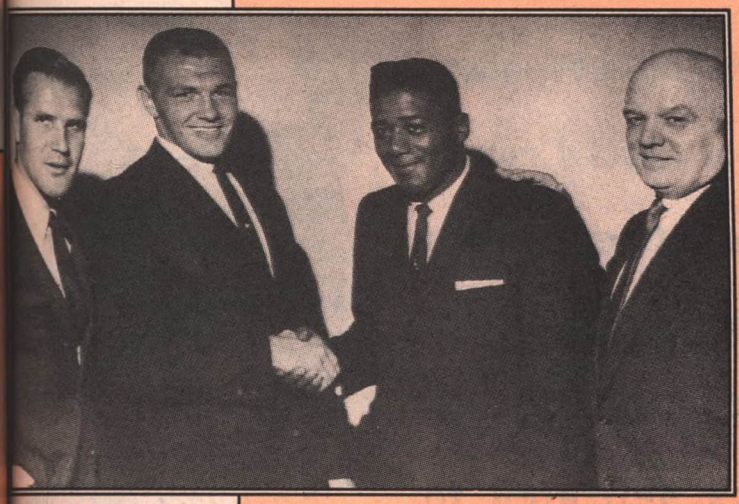
Strengths: Solid right-hand kayo power, strength and durability, courage, self-confidence

Weaknesses: Lack of world-class experience, lack of poise when tired or hurt, defense

A highly respected sports journalist summed up the Irish lad's chances thusly: "The best minds of Boston fancy insist that McNeeley is essentially a mauler and embarrassingly inept. Even in Boston, and even among the chauvinistic Boston Irish, there is little hope that McNeeley can beat Patterson."

Both the rap sheet and the journalist were right on target. Eight times in the brawl's life span of four rounds, "Mr. Guts" made body contact with the rosin-drenched canvas. Seven times, by various miraculous contortions, he managed to pull himself erect to again play human punching bag for champion Patterson's perfectly timed missiles. But to arise an eighth time was too much even for Mr. Guts. Referee Jersey Joe Walcott, the former champion, counted 10 at 2:51 of the fourth, with McNeeley still struggling desperately to clear his head and pump life into legs that had turned to spaghetti.

It was the first defeat in 24 battles for the 10-1 underdog. But when he returned home to Boston, instead of jeers there were cheers, as well as a big parade, with everybody proudly wearing the green. And after the parade, Guinness flowed like water in every pub in Irishtown, a rousing tribute to Thomas McNeeley Jr., a fistfighter true to the ancient tradition.



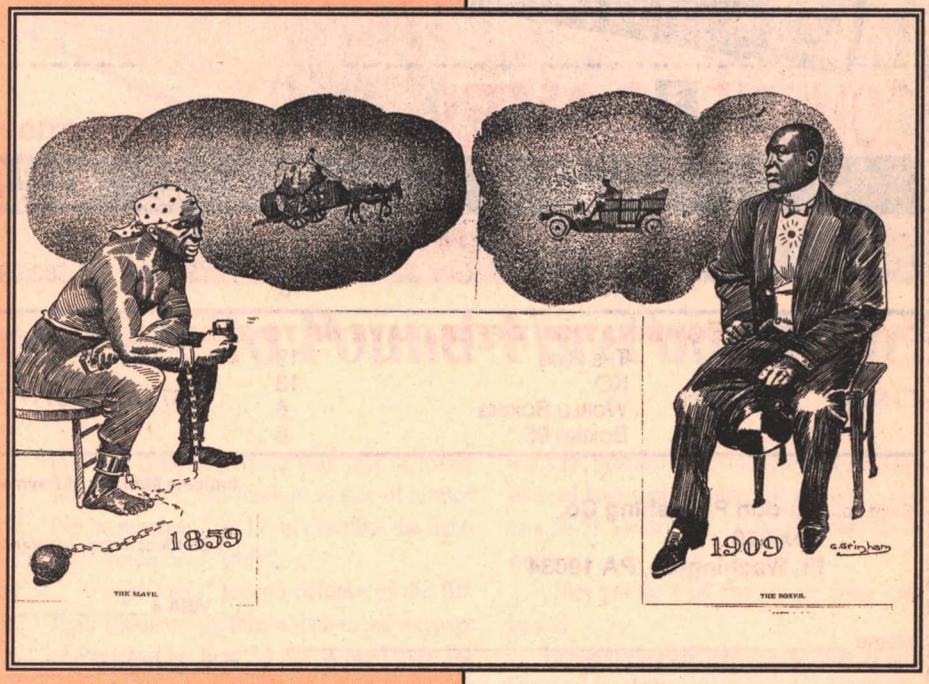
ndefeated Tom McNeeley nd heavyweight champion loyd Patterson after signing r their title fight in oronto. From left: Peter uller (McNeeley's manag-r), McNeeley, Patterson, nd Cus D'Amato.

MASTERPIECE

(January 3, 1909)

With a few strokes of his magic pen and black crayon, master sports cartoonist George Grinham created what surely has to be one of the most poignant examples of his art. Remarkable for its perfect composition, simplicity, and dramatic impact, only four words and two dates are used to establish the time frame and characters. Not even the subject is identified. It isn't necessary. Jack Johnson was as famous as England's king, Russia's czar, and America's President.

The cartoon was published in an American newspaper, *The Star* (city unknown), eight days after Johnson knocked out Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia, to become the first African-American to win the heavyweight championship of the world. At a time when cartoons were a major—and often cruel—journalistic tool, this was one of the very few that portrayed Johnson and his race in a sympathetic light, focusing on African-Americans' 50-year struggle to shake off the shackles of slavery, as well as their new shining hero—brave and defiant, tall, ramrod straight, strikingly handsome, and unbeatable.



In January 1909, a few days after he became world heavyweight champion, Jack Johnson was portrayed in this haunting cartoon by George Grinham as the idol of his people, a heroic figure who broke the chains of bondage.

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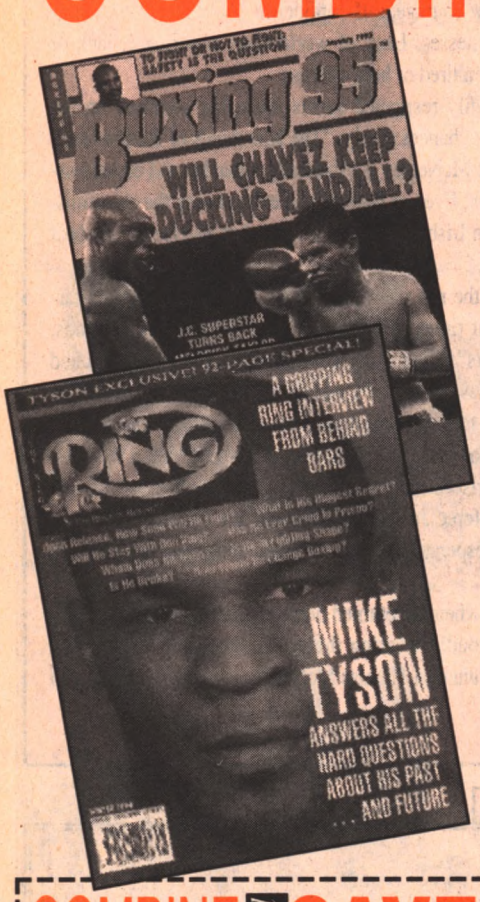

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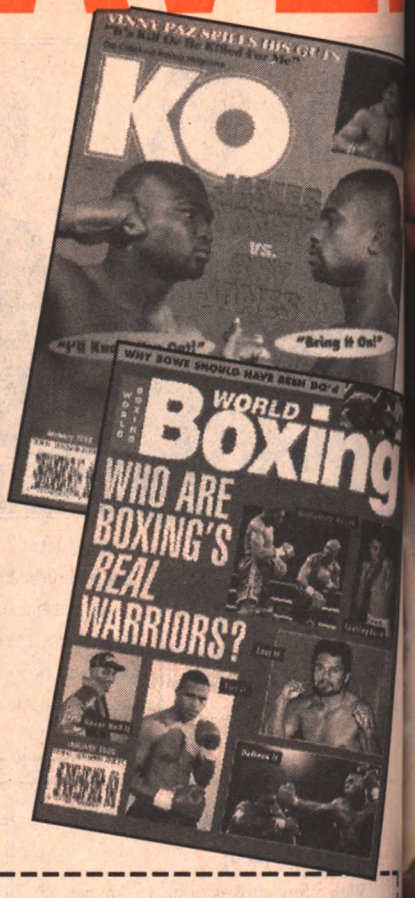

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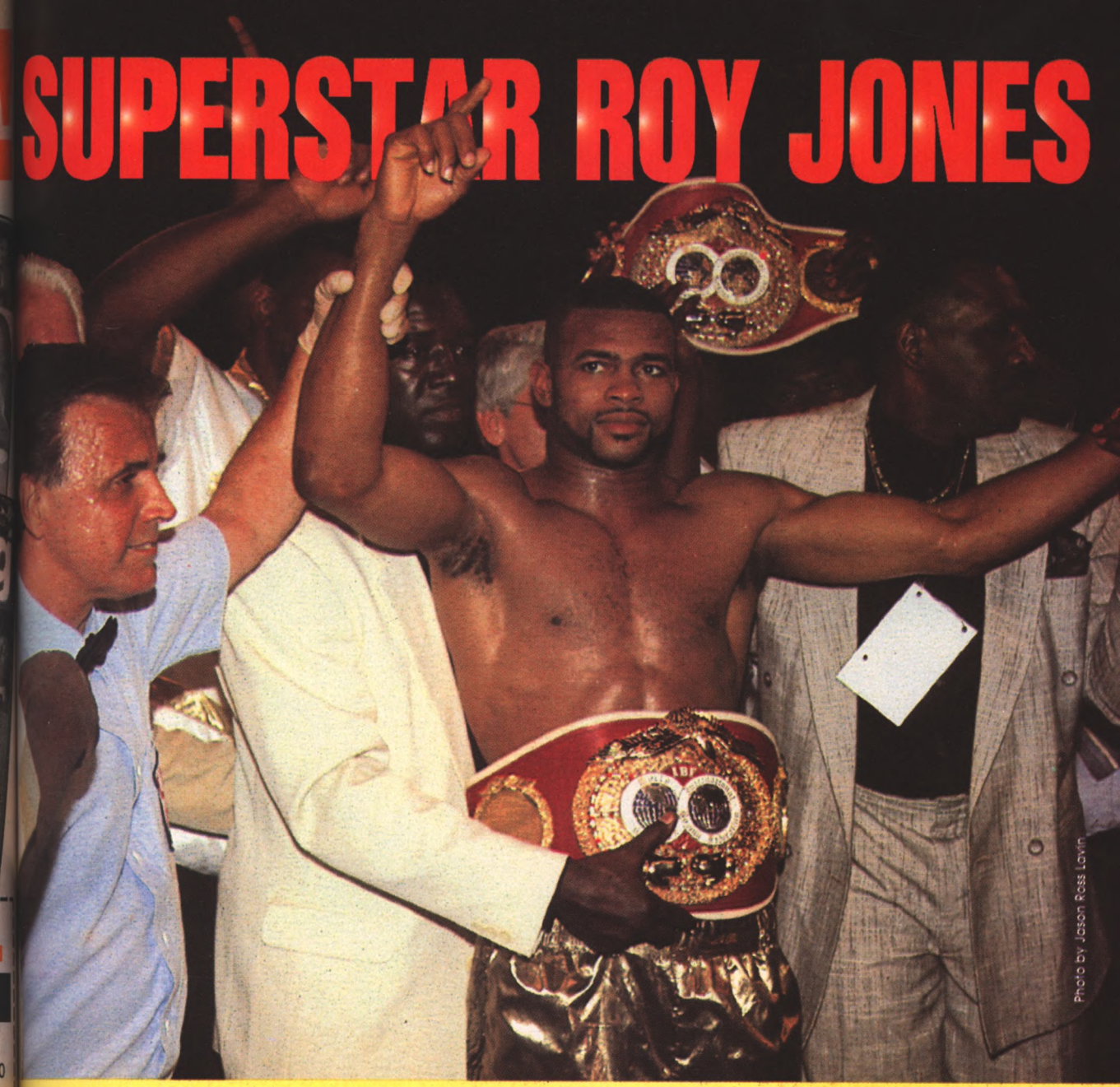
SUPERSTAR ROY JONES



Is There Anyone Left To Pound-For-Pound On?

By **Steve Farhood**

Just do it.

Was Roy Jones supposed to be nervous because executives of Nike, which has never signed a boxer, were in the house at the Atlantic City Convention Center for his title fight against Vinny Pazienza? Sorry, guys, but in the athletic arena, pressure is self-imposed, and Jones chooses not to torture himself. He encountered tough days aplenty growing up under the iron fist of Roy Sr., and he managed to survive each and every one of them. Besides, pressure is nothing more than fear of losing what you have, and Jones is so sure of himself that co-manager Stan Levin describes the fighter's confidence as "eerie."

Forget Jones' second defense of the IBF super middleweight title, a sixth-round stoppage of Pazienza on June 24 that wowed even the most cynical of the boxing press. What about three nights later, in the fourth quarter of a Pensacola (Florida) city league basketball game? Jones' team trailed 55-54 when its star guard was fouled with seven seconds remaining. Maybe Shaquille O'Neal misses free throws, but that's his problem. Jones stepped to the line and swished both shots, leading his unbeaten squad to a 56-55 victory. Ice Cole? It should be Ice *Jones*.

"They put the right guy on the [foul] line," he said.

The problem right now is that Jones is more likely to encounter a challenge on a basketball court than in a boxing ring. The Pazienza fight, a promotional natural that was billed as "The Devil And Mr. Jones," reminded us just how special he is. And the postfight speculation (Jones vs. everyone from Pernell Whitaker to

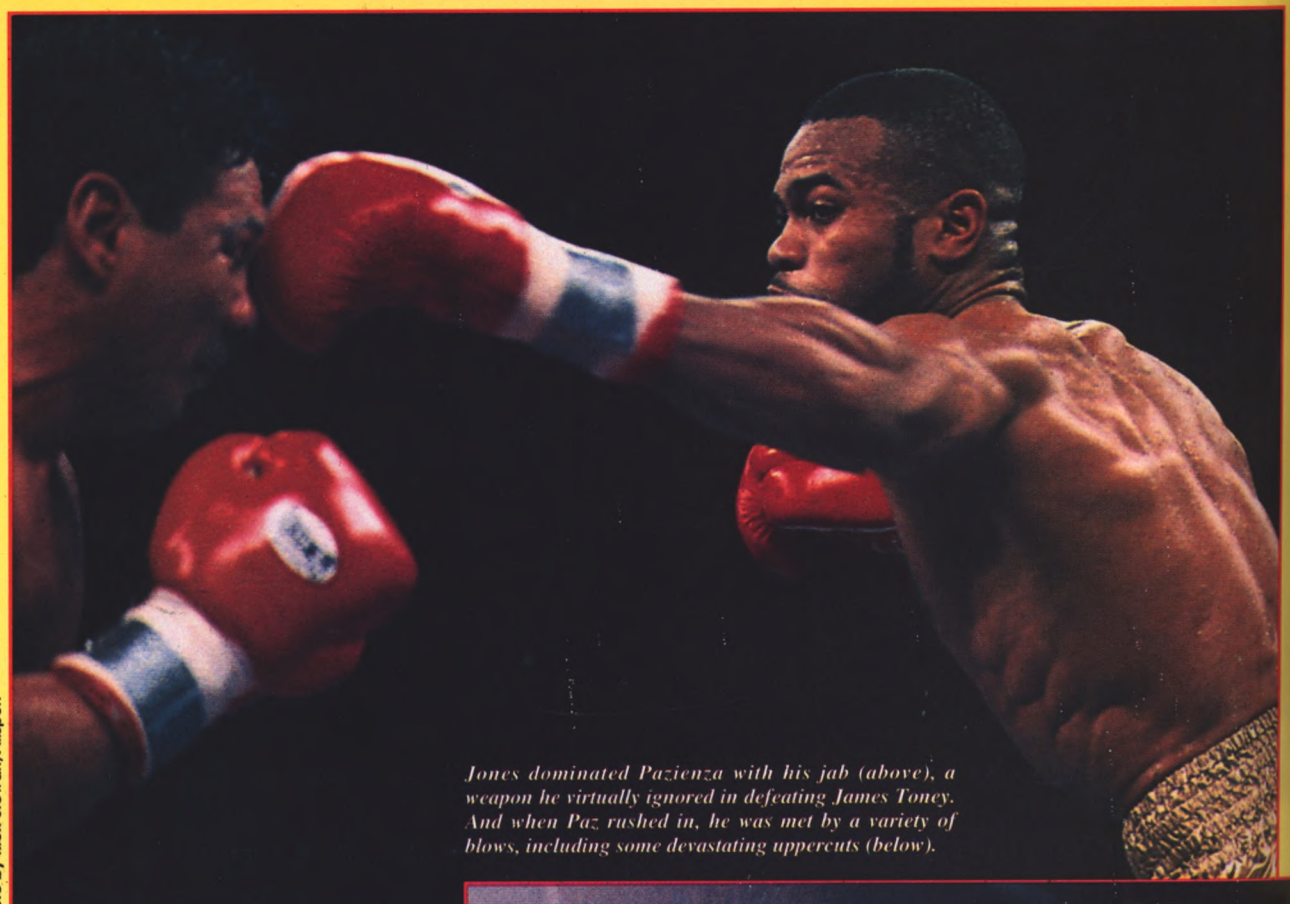


Photo by Rick Stewart/Allsport

Jones dominated Pazienza with his jab (above), a weapon he virtually ignored in defeating James Toney. And when Paz rushed in, he was met by a variety of blows, including some devastating uppercuts (below).

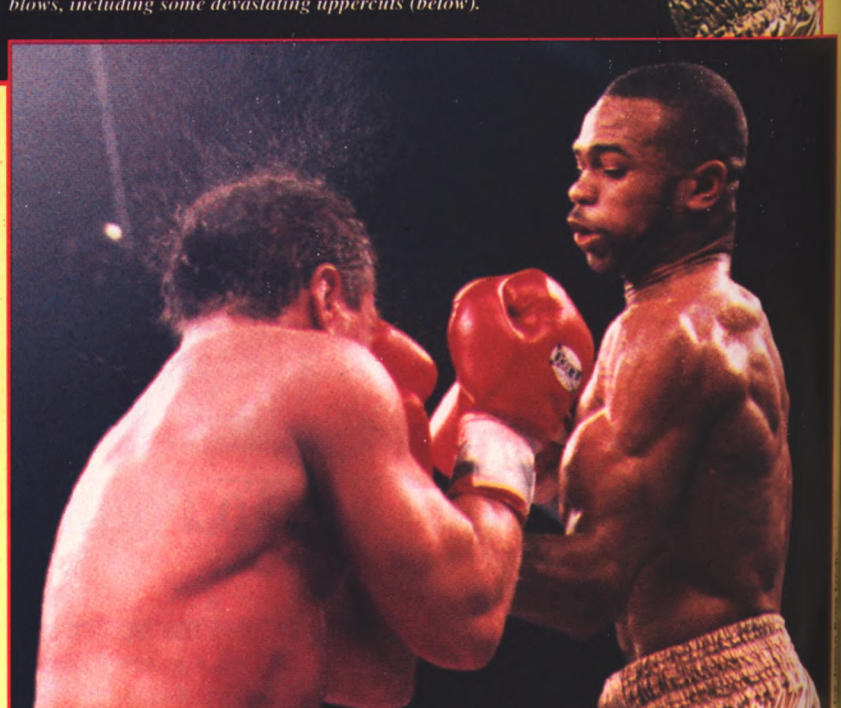


Photo by Jason Ross Lovin

Mike Tyson) reminded us just how ordinary the competition at his weight has become. Jones talks of playing point guard for the New York Knicks. Hey, one-on-one with Paz was easy, but dunking on Shaq ... Maybe, just maybe, he'd feel a few butterflies while floating through the lane.

Nah, he'd probably just do it.

***

Cus D'Amato used to say that when skills are roughly equal, the fighter who imposes his will on his opponent will emerge victorious. In a battle of wills, Jones-Pazienza might've been pick-'em. But a battle of skills turned out to be every bit the mismatch the 12-1 odds suggested.

"I believe Vinny does really think he's going to win," Alton Merkerson, Jones' trainer, said the morning of the fight. "He does have that self-confidence." Confident himself, Merkerson didn't feel the need to finish his statement with "but ... ."

So loose was Jones that 45 minutes before the start of the card, he was cashing in $700 worth of chips at the Trump Plaza casino. (Having to make a hard 10 before rolling a seven at the craps table—now *that's* pressure.) Pazienza approached zero hour a bit differently. Ever the warrior, he spent the last couple of hours before the fight pacing in his dressing room cubicle and firing rat-a-tat combinations at imaginary foes. The songs on his tape player captured his mood, if not his attitude: "I Don't Care Anymore"; "It Don't Matter To Me"; and "R-E-S-P-E-C-T."

"From day one he's been sure he's gonna win," said trainer Kevin Rooney. "We're *all* sure."

It was past midnight when the opening bell sounded. Ten seconds later, Jones, 168, Pensacola, Florida, struck with an emphatic left-right, and Pazienza, 168, Cranston, Rhode Island, wasn't so sure anymore. Jones potshotted the challenger until Paz, a study in perpetual motion, managed to corner his rival. With Jones

Pazienza understood that his only chance was to mug Jones along the ropes. His strategy occasionally worked, but the champion never lost his poise.

At the postfight press conference, Paz chose not to hide his wounds behind sunglasses. "It's not as bad as what happened to me three years ago," he said, referring to the car accident that almost ended his career. "I came back from that, I can come back from this."

At a prefight party, renowned artist LeRoy Neiman unveiled a painting of Jones that had been commissioned by the fighter's co-manager, Fred Levin.

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

backed to the ropes, Paz found an outlet for his incredible energy. He couldn't outbox Jones, and he certainly couldn't outpunch him, but he could push and shove and butt and grab and fling roundhouse blows. The attack was mostly ineffective. Still, when Paz got in his face at the bell, Jones felt the need to respond in kind. Sorry, Roy, but keeping your cool sometimes gets in the way of keeping your dignity.

"A man who controls himself is a powerful man," Jones said later. "I've never lost control, not even when they robbed me in Seoul."

In the second round, Jones began to spear Paz with a unerringly accurate jab. This was unexpected only because in his career-best performance against James Toney last November, Jones averaged about one jab per round. Different folks, different strokes.

"If you have a good jab, which they said I didn't possess," Jones said, "you have to use it against a shorter guy."

Jones' left was enough to impress judges Kason Cheeks and Frank Brunette, but Jim Traylor scored for Paz, who tried to steal the round by again roughing up the champion along the ropes. (All three judges are from the USA.)

After the second, Paz was lucky to win a 10-second interval, much less a round. Early in the third, the fighters, both of whom label themselves as performers, dropped their hands and taunted each other. Then, in an attempt to minimize a particularly effective Jones flurry, Paz stepped back and hit himself on the head. Fortunately, his aim was good; his right eye was beginning to swell, and blood was dripping from his nose.

At the end of the round, Paz stuck out his tongue at the champion, and Jones responded by boogeying back to his corner. The Nike execs probably liked that. Remember, Deion Sanders is a member of their team.

In the fourth and fifth, Paz, previously will-

(Continued on page 55)

HARADA, MONTGOMERY, & GOMEZ JOIN BOXING'S IMMORTALS

Photos by Teddy Blackbu

Whether driving (above) or putting (right), Harada was a big hit with the boxing fans in Canastota. The two-division former champion never stopped smiling.

The new and the old: Flyweight champion Danny Romero acknowledges 1995 Hall of Fame inductee and former lightweight champion Bob Montgomery, who made the trek from Philadelphia.

Sandy Saddler poses with 1995 inductee and former triple-crown champion Wilfredo Gomez. Since leaving the ring, Gomez has been troubled by drug problems.

By Ed Maloney

Ever since its first class was welcomed in June 1990, it has been believed by those who run the International Boxing Hall of Fame that to ensure a huge turnout to the induction weekend festivities in Canastota, New York, a legendary figure was needed in attendance. Not that the IBHF's Class of '95 was lacking in name recognition or accomplishment, but if one had to categorize the four living inductees who were enshrined in June, the word *glamorous* wouldn't come to mind. In fact, *blue-collar* would be more fitting. Triple-crown champion Wilfredo Gomez, two-division titlist Fighting Harada, lightweight king Bob Montgomery, and Arthur Mercante, the ultimate third man, all enjoyed the weekend with the same quiet dignity that had marked their careers. But the fears of the Hall's hierarchy were unfounded, thanks largely to its own efforts. For the sixth time, Canastotans put on an unparalleled four-day boxingfest. There were 15 events,

(Continued on page 57)

THE RESURGENCE OF RIDDICK BOWE

The Only Thing In His Belly Now Is Fi

Photos By Tom Casino

By Robert Seltzer

Riddick Bowe calls himself "Big Daddy," a wonderfully appropriate nickname considering he's emerged as the patriarch of the pachyderms, the greatest heavyweight in the land, Mike Tyson or no Mike Tyson.

Bowe either cemented or reestablished that status—depending on your perspective—with his magnificent victory over Jorge Luis Gonzalez on June 17 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, a performance that was as savage as it was efficient. Even the legendary Eddie Futch, a trainer not given to grand statements, was moved to make, well, a grand statement. He gave Bowe an A-plus for his efforts, the first time he had bestowed such a lofty grade on his fighter.

"That makes me feel real good," Bowe said, genuinely humbled.

George Foreman does not care about alphabet soups or linear descendants or anything else. He knows who the real heavyweight champion of the world is. And his name is Riddick Bowe.

"I wouldn't want to mess with Bowe," Foreman said. "My advice to all the other heavyweights is to leave Riddick Bowe alone."

Would Foreman want to face Bowe?

"Noooooo!" Big George screamed.

Bowe deserves the respect, but both his critics and admirers—they are, ironically, often one and the same—wondered

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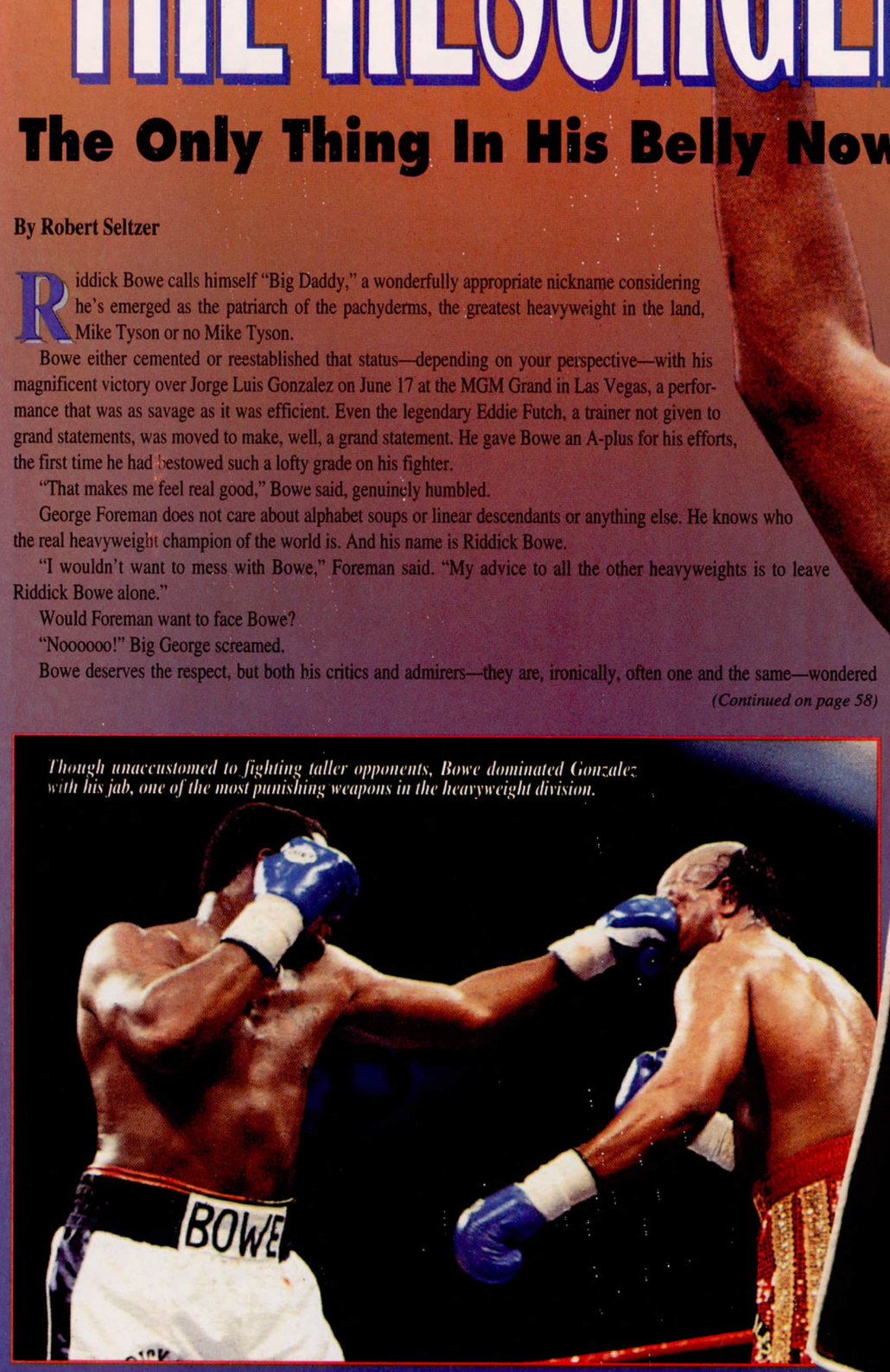
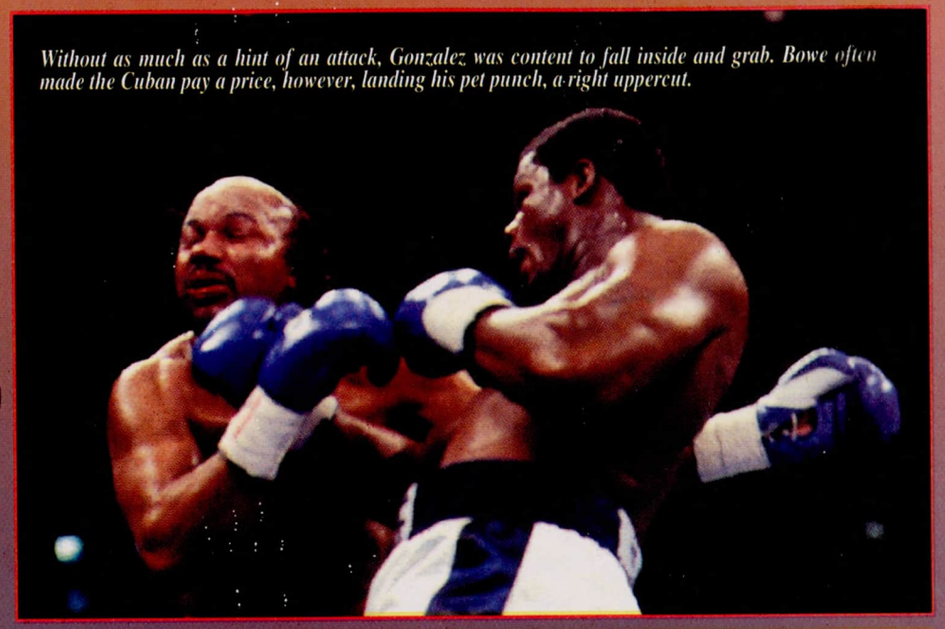
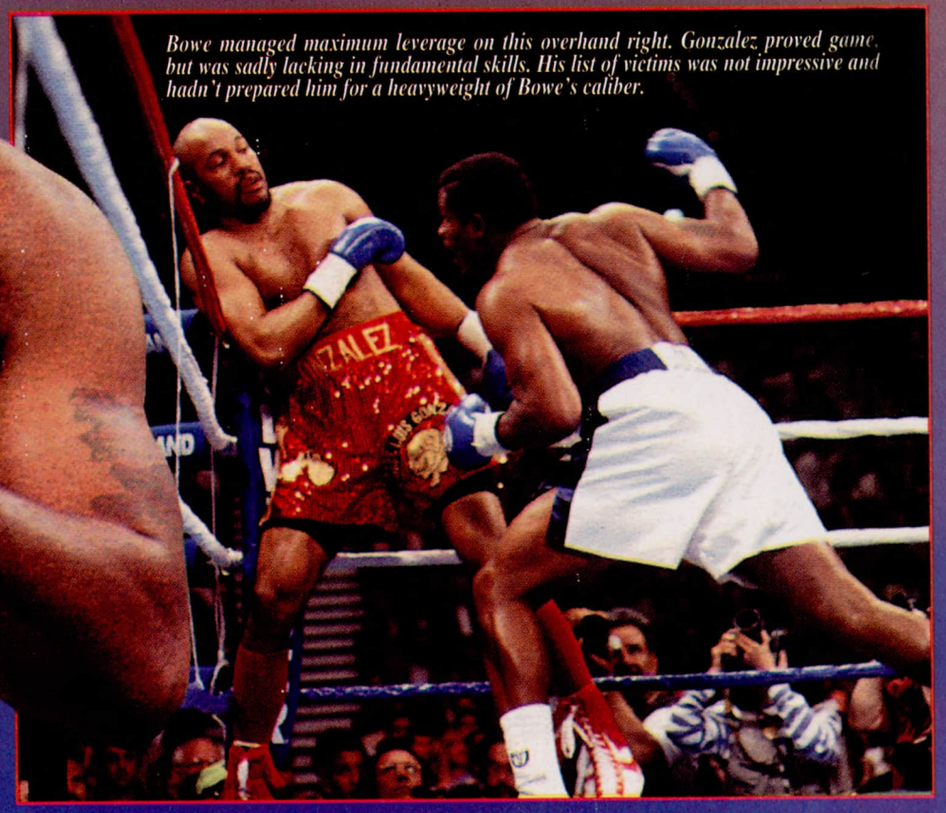


Though unaccustomed to fighting taller opponents, Bowe dominated Gonzalez with his jab, one of the most punishing weapons in the heavyweight division.



Without as much as a hint of an attack, Gonzalez was content to fall inside and grab. Bowe often made the Cuban pay a price, however, landing his pet punch, a right uppercut.



Bowe managed maximum leverage on this overhand right. Gonzalez proved game, but was sadly lacking in fundamental skills. His list of victims was not impressive and hadn't prepared him for a heavyweight of Bowe's caliber.

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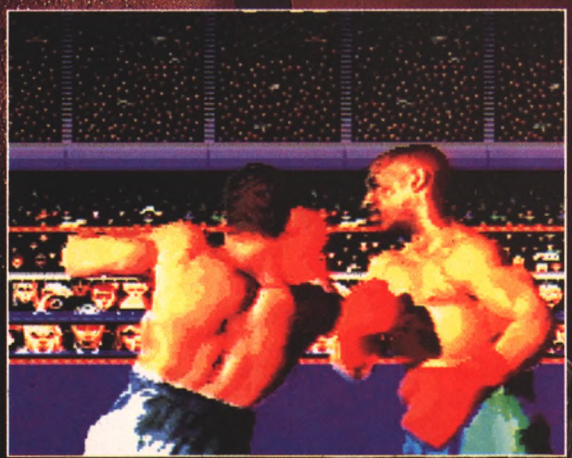

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REMEMBERING LaMAR CLARK'S KAYO STREAK

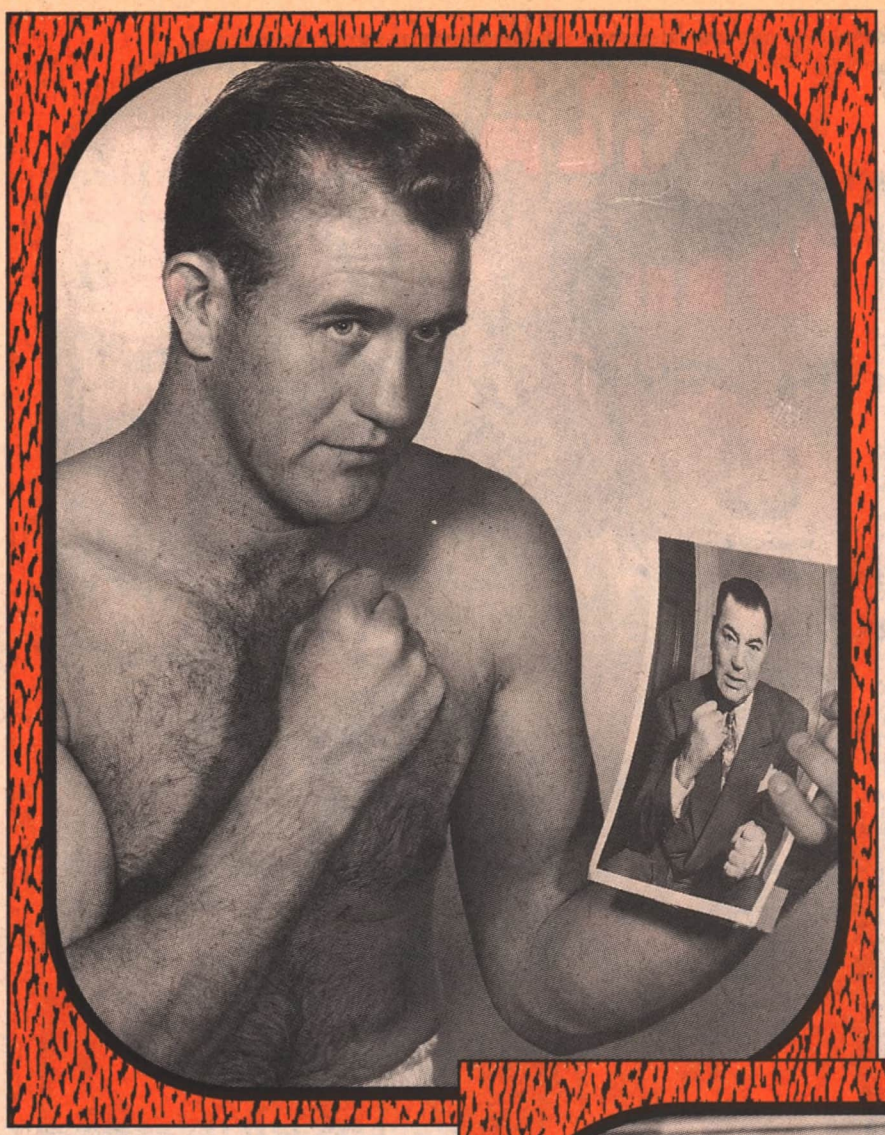
A World Record, But No World Title

by Pete **Ehrmann**

Both *The Ring Record Book* and *Guinness Book Of World Records* say it was 44, but LaMar Clark is pretty sure that somewhere in the stack of human cordwood he chopped 30-plus years ago, there's another body that hasn't been accounted for.

The confusion about the exact number of consecutive knockouts scored by the Utah heavyweight they called "The KO Kid" is understandable since when Clark was whacking out opponents en route to the record for most kayos in a row, he sometimes did two or three, and once six, in a single night. Whether 44 or 45, the record still stands today.

The fact that some of his victims were rasslers and local roughnecks didn't keep Clark



A murderous puncher, Clark was often compared to legendary former champion Jack Dempsey in the sense that both heavyweights scored multiple kayos in one night.

wait to get out there and get the feel of the contact. I loved to mix it up."

He would have loved it even more if he'd have pitched baseballs for a living instead of knockout punches. But Clark, who threw endlessly at a tire hanging on the barn where he grew up in Cedar City in the southern part of the state, had a fastball and nothing else when the Philadelphia Phillies tried him out in 1950. When that dream fizzled, Clark went to junior college on a football scholarship and became an All-American gridiron star. He also excelled at track.

The sport wasn't important, just the competition. "Whatever I did, I had to do the best I could," he said. "I hated to lose. There just wasn't a name bad enough for losing."

In Clark's streetfights, it was always the other guy who had to worry about that.

"I never picked a streetfight with anybody," he said. "but I never backed down. I got called on quite a few times. Everybody wanted to get a shot at me. Nobody could whip me."

Clark enthusiastically recalled one big fellow who ordered him outside to be "straightened

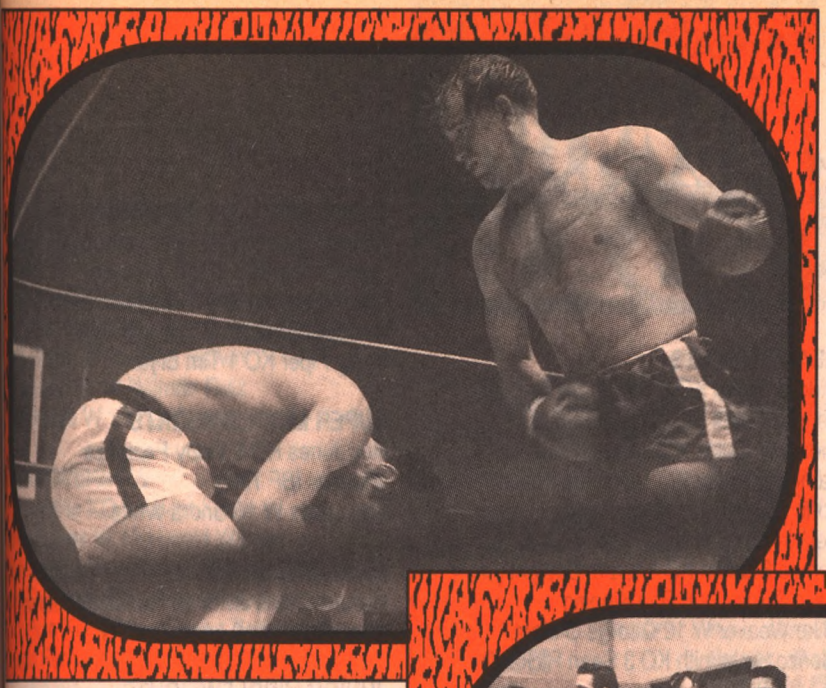
Once foes, now friends: A recent photo shows Clark with Muhammad Ali, who, in 1961, stopped "The KO Kid" in two rounds. It was "The Greatest's" sixth pro bout.

from becoming a genuine ring phenomenon in the late-'50s. Nor from almost achieving a shot at the title held by Floyd Patterson, a fight that both Clark and his manager, Marv Jensen, are certain he would have won.

Clark swears he would have had 46 straight knockouts, but in his first pro bout Jensen told him to go the whole six rounds "to see what it was like." That was against John Hicks in January 1958, and he didn't again go that distance until April 1959, when he stopped Tony Burton in six. Nobody else Clark beat stayed more than four. Thirty of his recorded kayos came in the first round, and 11 more came in the second.

There were, at the end of his career, three losses, including one to a kid named Cassius Clay, who later said Clark hit him "with a right on the chest, and I thought my ribs caved in."

"Everything I threw, I threw with everything I had," said Clark, now 60 and living in West Jordan, outside of Salt Lake City. "I couldn't



Undefeated in 45 fights, Clark was one step away from a shot at world heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson when he battled Bartolo Soni in Ogden, Utah. After scoring a handful of knockdowns, Clark tired and suffered a ninth-round loss. He never did get the title shot.

...ut." "We just got outside and he hit me," he ...aid, "and boy, I came back with a right. I don't ...now if you've ever been on a farm, but if you ...hoot a pig, it just quivers and drops, and that's ...hat this guy did. It was a straight right hand. I ...ould do it with either hand."

He did it enough that finally some Cedar ...City policemen recommended he do his fighting ...n the ring. In 1956, he won the Golden Gloves ...egional heavyweight title, and the next year ...as named Outstanding Boxer in winning the ...ter-Mountain AAU title.

When he wanted to turn pro, Clark moved to ...West Jordan and hooked up with Jensen, who ...as manager of world middleweight champion ...ene Fullmer.

Now 77, the astute and gentlemanly Jensen ...ecalled Clark "had the quickest hands I'd ever ...en. His reflexes were so quick. He could hit a ...n five times before the other guy got his hands ...p. He was such a great athlete, and only weighed ...2 or 185 pounds. He was too big for a light ...eavyweight and too light for a heavyweight."

Being outweighed sometimes by 50 pounds ...r more didn't bother Clark. "For some reason I ...ways done good against bigger guys," he said.

Despite his early successes, Clark was noth...g more than a "RING Prospect Of The Month" ...ugust 1958 issue) until October 1958, when he was scheduled to fight at the state fairgrounds in West Jordan. There was a big snowstorm and Clark's opponent didn't show up. Two other heavyweights were matched on the card, and one of them failed to appear, too. So Clark and the other remaining heavyweight, Ricky Smith, agreed to fight. Clark knocked him out in a round. Then Clark's originally scheduled opponent, Oscar Tally, showed up. According to Jensen, Clark insisted on fighting him, too, and scored his second first-round kayo of the night.

More than 40 years earlier, another hard-punching young heavyweight had dispatched two opponents on the same night in Utah, and after Clark did it, one newspaper reported that "LaMar Clark not only duplicated Jack Dempsey's feat of kayoing two boxers in the same evening, but he picked up the same purse Dempsey received, too—a $5 bill."

It should be noted that Jensen's recollection that it was Clark who insisted on fighting multiple opponents differs slightly from how the fighter recalled it.

"Marv used to say that LaMar *insists* he fight this other guy," Clark said. "But anything he told me I could do, by darn, if I couldn't do it, I'd die trying."

(This did not include wearing a fringed buckskin robe into the ring and going by the nickname "Geronimo," an early Jensen idea rejected by Clark, whose grandmother was Native American.)

Stablemate Gene Fullmer and Clark (seated) ponder the situation as the heavyweight's six opponents ominously lurk in the background. Like a western gunslinger, Clark shot down all six fighters on that December 1958 night.

Somebody insisted again in November that he fight two opponents in one day, and the result was a pair of big scares for The KO Kid. Clark knocked out Jimmy King in two rounds, but he feared he did worse. "I thought he was dead," he recalled. "That scared me to death." They revived King, and Clark went back in against Hal Crump, who floored him twice in the first round. In the second, Clark knocked out Crump, but afterward "we were walking around Kanab [Utah], and I was dingier than an 18-dollar bill."

Restored by a night's rest, Clark flattened

(Continued on page 63)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Riddick Bowe KO 6 Jorge Luis Gonzalez
Lennox Lewis KO 4 Justin Fortune
Alexandr Zolkin KO 9 Bert Cooper
James Thunder KO 1 Bomani Parker
John Ruiz KO 2 Derrick Roddy
Zeljko Mavrovic KO 2 Kenny Smith
James Stanton KO 1 Exum Speight
Leon Spinks W 8 Ray Kipping
Mike Weaver W 12 George O'Mara
Alonzo Highsmith KO 3 Sean Rickards

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Al Cole W 12 Uriah Grant
(Retains IBF Title)
Sergei Kobozev KO 5 Art Baylis
Kenny Keene Tech. Dec. 5 Terry Ray
Nate Miller KO 6 Ron Preston
Robert Daniels W 8 Art Pendergrass
Ralf Rocchigiani KO 11 Carl Thompson
Brian LaSpada W Disq. 11 Art Jimmerson
Reynaldo Gimenez KO 7 Larry Carlisle
Marc Randazzo KO 4 Robert Straw

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Fabrice Tiozzo W 12 Mike McCallum
(Wins WBC Title)
James Toney KO 5 Freddy Delgado

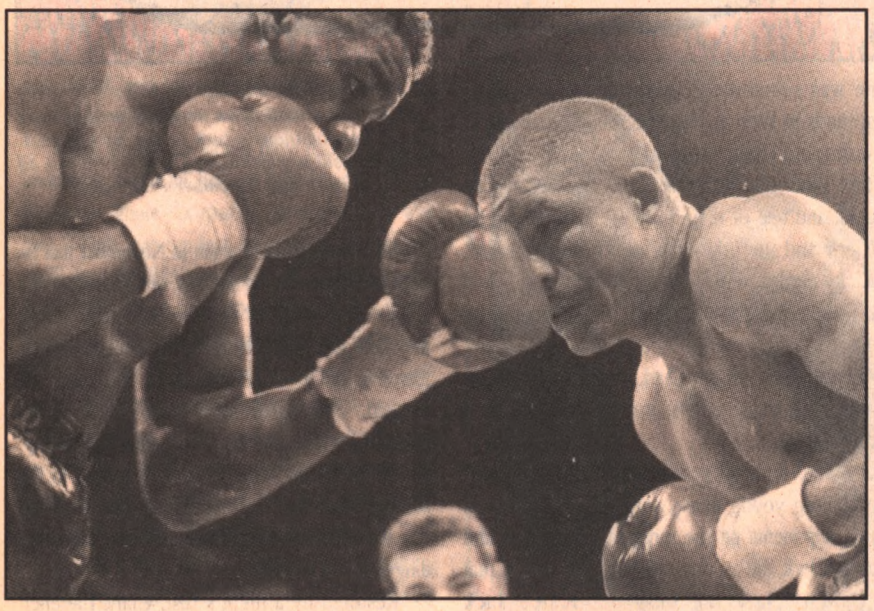


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Merqui Sosa (right) takes the rematch with Prince Charles Williams

Montell Griffin KO 2 Tony Booth
Merqui Sosa KO 10 Prince Charles Williams
Torsten May KO 2 Tim Johnson
Ole Klemetsen W 10 Charles Oliver
Asludden Umarov KO 2 Joel Soni
Nicky Piper KO 1 Tim Bryan

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Roy Jones KO 6 Vinny Pazienza
(Retains IBF Title)
Eric Lucas W 10 Undra White

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Howard Davis Jr. W 10 Humberto Aranda
Alex Hilton W 10 Leroy Owens

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Carl Daniels W 12 Julio Cesar Green
(Wins Vacant WBA Title)
Yori Boy Campas KO 3 Heath Todd
Raul Marquez KO 4 Ernie Houser
Troy Waters W 10 Jorge Vaca
Skipper Kelp W 8 Anthony Ivory
Pascal Lustenberger W 8 Ahmet Dottuev

WELTERWEIGHTS
Larry Barnes KO 5 Jeff Passero
Hector Camacho KO 7 Juan Arroyo
Jesse James Hughes KO 7 Nick Rupa
Rodney Moore W 6 Bernard Robinson
Ralph Jones KO 2 White Lightning Brown
James Page KO 2 Alberto Alcaraz
Del Bryan KO 11 Gary Logan
Ricky Hesia KO 3 Celedonio Luna
Shannon Taylor W 10 Buck Smith

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Kostya Tszyu W 12 Roger Mayweather
(Retains IBF Title)
Frankie Randall W 12 Jose Barboza
(Retains WBA Title)
Soren Sondergaard W 10 Livingstone Bramble
George Scott KO 5 Ricardo Davila
Tonito Rivera KO 6 Mark Reels
Harold Petty W 6 Alphonse Garcia
Moses James W 12 Fritz Vanderpool
Ruben Castillo W 10 Ismael Diaz

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Ivan Robinson KO 3 Edwin Ruiz
Billy Schwer W Disq. 6 Bruno Rabanales
Billy Irwin W 12 Amado Cabato
Manuel Gomez KO 10 Hector Arroyo
Jeff Mayweather W 8 Martin Ramirez

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Tracy Patterson KO 2 Ed Hopson
(Wins IBF Title)
Reggie Tuur KO 5 Pete Taliaferro
Jose Vida Ramos W Disq. 5 Jorge Paez
Calvin Grove W 10 John Brown
Saul Duran KO 10 Wilfrido Ruiz
David Toledo W 10 Lee Cargle

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Chico Castillo KO 1 Javier Leon
Derrick Gainer W 12 Harold Warren
Luis Mendoza W 10 Ericel Nucamendi
Louie Espinoza KO 1 Jorge Monzon
Victor Polo KO 4 Juan Carlos Salazar
Orlando Fernandez KO 3 Enrique Valenzuela
Juan Manuel Marquez KO 6 Julio Cesar Portillo

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Waseem Hamed KO 2 Juan Polo-Perez
Welcome Ncita KO 1 Carlos Rocha
Paulie Ayala W 12 Mario Diaz
Enrique Gedeon W 12 Sergio Reyes
Jesse Magana W 12 Ricardo Medina
Jose Noyola KO 4 Jose Garcia
Laureano Ramirez W 12 Michael Alldis

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Mbulelo Botile W 12 Sam Stewart
(Retains IBF Title)
Jung Hoon Lee KO 2 Golden Boy Chico

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Harold Grey W 12 Julio Borboa
(Retains IBF Title)
Johnny Tapia W 12 Arthur Johnson
Saengchai Kittikasem KO 3 Rocky Macias

FLYWEIGHTS
Michael Carbajal KO 10 Andre Cazares
Alberto Jimenez KO 9 Robbie Regan
Miguel Martinez KO 9 Jose Quirino
Gregg Camputaro D 12 Salvatore Fanni

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Michor Cob Castro W 10 Jose DeJesus
Yuichi Hosono W 10 Alexis Janiola
Shiro Yahiro W 10 Ric Magramo
Jesus Manuel Herrera W 12 Javier Varguez

STRAWWEIGHTS
Jaime Sanchez KO 3 Arturo Valdes

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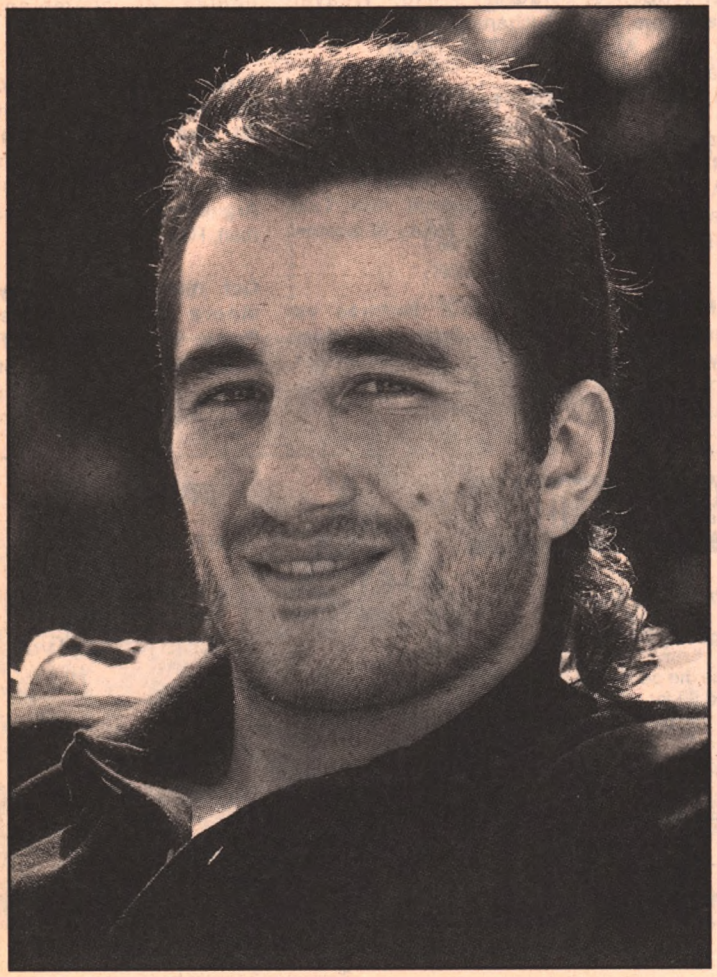
RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Boxing insiders waited ages for Mike McCallum to start acting his age. But "The Bodysnatcher" kept turning the insiders out by defeating younger, quicker fighters with the kind of ring smarts that only come with experience. In June, McCallum finally grew old. Or maybe the 26-year-old Tiozzo simply started acting *his* age. Whatever the case, in a major upset, the Frenchman won the WBC light heavyweight title by convincing decision.



In Tiozzo's first title try, he came close to upsetting Virgil Hill. This time, he outjabbed McCallum, outhustled him, and even scored the first knockdown of the triple-crown titlist's career. And he did it all at home. With Tiozzo and Germany's Henry Maske holding two-thirds of the 175-pound title, American light heavyweights better get their passports updated.

• • • •

Fabrice Tiozzo

Kostya Tszyu W 12 Roger Mayweather

Newcastle, Australia: Fighting as an Australian citizen for the first time, the Russian-born Tszyu made his initial defense of the IBF junior welterweight title, scoring a virtually trouble-free unanimous decision over two-division former champion Mayweather before 5,000 fans at the Entertainment Centre.

Although cut over the left eye and sporting an ear shaded somewhere between purple and crimson, the 25-year-old champion won almost every round. A 25-1 favorite, Tszyu, 139¾, Sydney, Australia, opened with his customary aggressiveness. Though he peppered the 34-year-old Mayweather, 140, Las Vegas, Nevada, with a variety of punches, he was unable to find an answer to Mayweather's strategy of survival.

Tszyu continued his seek-and-destroy mission through the middle stages, with the challenger's spindly legs taking him to a position near his own corner, where he was content to cover up and fall into clinches. (Mayweather later complained of poor traction.) Just when it seemed certain Mayweather, 54-12 (33), would be leaving the Land Down Under both belted and beltless, a series of sneak counter rights drew blood from the corner of the champion's left eye. "The Black Mamba" tired badly down the stretch, however, and he failed to press his slight advantage. Tszyu, 15-0 (11), then increased the pace and coasted to the final bell.

Charlie Lucas (Australia) scored 118-110, Paul Weitzel (USA) 119-109, and Pascual Ingusan (Philippines) 118-110. THE RING had Tszyu in front by 119-109. The referee was Billy Males (Australia).

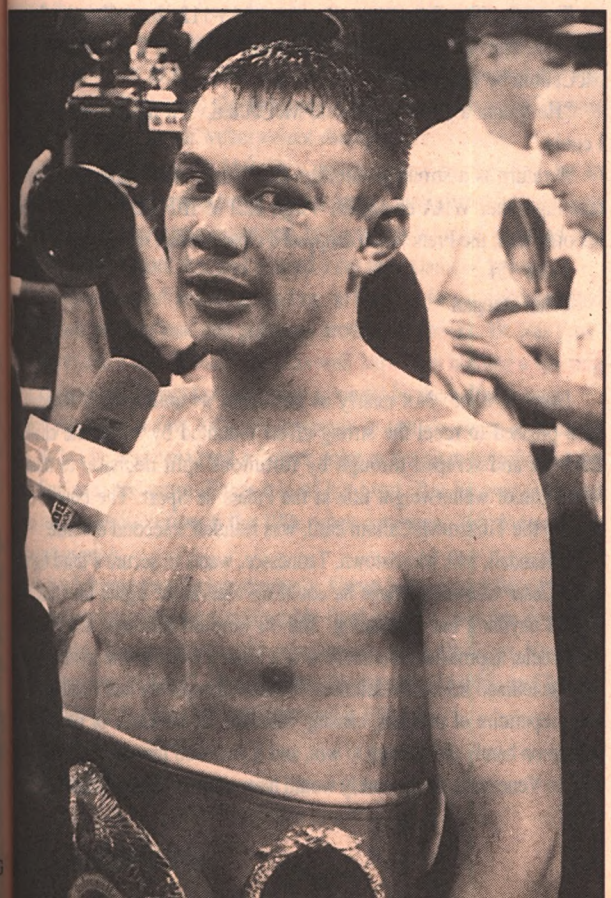
Admitting there is always room for improvement, Tszyu was pleased with the win. "He didn't give me any chance to hit him," the champion said. "His reach was too long." (Mayweather possessed a 5¾-inch reach advantage.)

Tszyu must meet big-punching Colombian Hugo Pineda in a mandatory defense by October 28.

Promoter: Paul Hotz

(6-25-95)

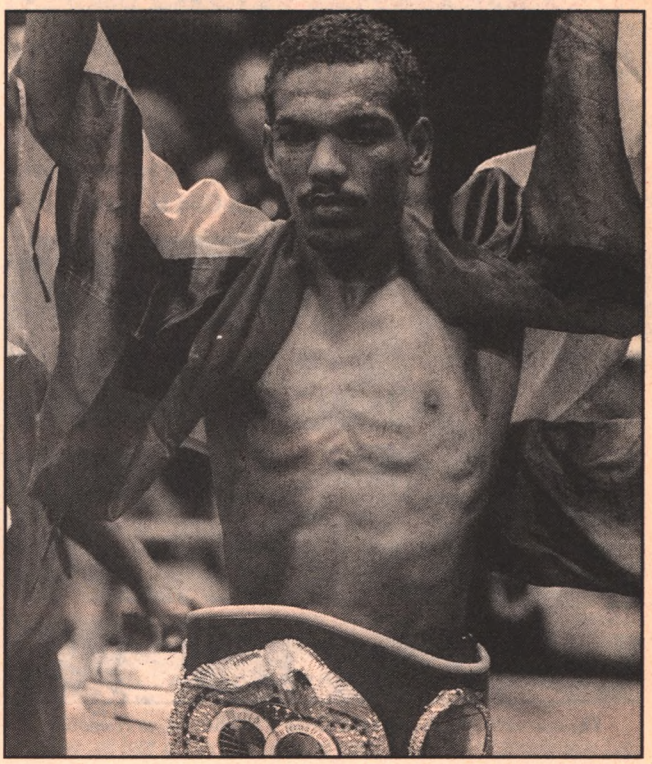
Daniel Gaylor



Harold Grey W 12 Julio Borboa

Cartagena, Colombia: It appears that Grey and Borboa could fight 100 times and the result would always be the same—a close decision victory for Grey.

That was the case when Grey took the IBF junior bantamweight title from



Grey beat Borboa by a shade

Borboa by split decision in August 1994. The scene shifted to Grey's hometown for the rematch, but the result was identical. It was Grey's third defense.

Neither man could muster the power to hurt the other, or even score a knockdown. Both 115-pounders were quick and offered strong defenses. So it came down to scoring and movement, and that's what the 23-year-old Grey, 115, Cartagena, Colombia, did most and best. Grey frustrated Borboa, 114, Navajoa, Mexico, with an irritating jab, got in solid combinations, and then retreated before the mandatory challenger could effectively retaliate. At the end, Borboa, 25, was doing enough to win rounds, but not enough to hurt Grey or catch up on the cards.

"The fight was as tough as the first," Borboa said. "I want to meet Grey again. I know I can beat him."

Both fighters began cautiously, and that enabled the busier Grey, 20-0 (15), to chalk up points and win the first three rounds. Borboa, 24-5 (22), began to find his foe in the fourth and fifth. Late in the fifth, Grey slipped to the canvas on a wet spot. He would fall three more times, but never from a punch.

The champion regained control from the sixth through the eighth, with Borboa chasing him. As the rounds mounted, Borboa began to score with right uppercuts and straight rights, but he couldn't land consistently, and as a result did little damage. Borboa swarmed throughout the 12th, and if Grey felt he had done enough to win, the cards proved him right. Gabriel Sanchez (Colombia) and Rafael Santos (Mexico) scored for Grey by 116-112 and 115-114, respectively, while Richard Beiss (USA) had Borboa in front by 115-113. THE RING saw Grey the winner by 115-114. The referee

Tszyu: An unimpressive win

was Bill Connors (USA).

Promoter: Cedric Kushner Productions

(6-24-95)

Bruce Williams

Al Cole W 12 Uriah Grant

Atlantic City, New Jersey: The first Cole-Grant fight, in February 1993, was a war. Cole, who was making the first defense of the IBF cruiserweight title, won fairly by a contested decision. The trouble with the rematch at the Convention Center was timing. Cole hadn't defended in almost a year, and the heavyweight-to-be seems to have lost interest in the division. As for Grant, between meetings with Cole, he had engaged in

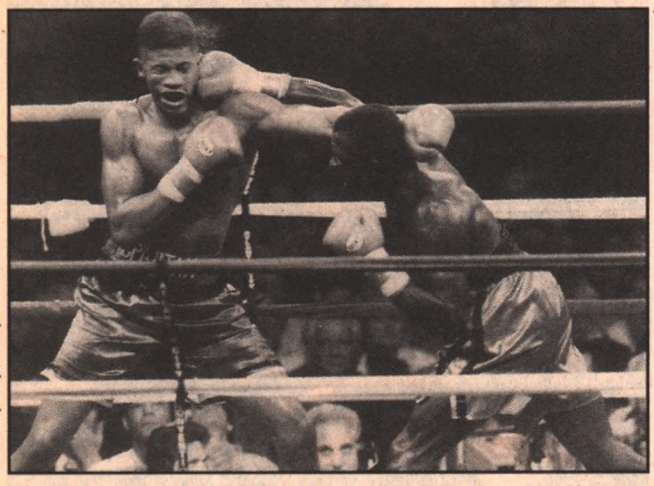


Photo by Ray Bailey

The ever-sturdy Cole absorbed Grant's bombs without crumbling

only one bout. The rap used to be that deserving fighters couldn't always get title shots. Now undeserving fighters get *multiple* shots.

Aside from the championship pretensions, it wasn't a bad fight. Cole, 190, Spring Valley, New York, is now aligned with Roy Jones' camp, and it showed. Regarded as an awkward, lurching overachiever who wins on toughness and determination, he surprised everyone by opening with clean jabbing and movement. By the second round, however, he was the old King Cole, willing to stand and trade merrily. The unimaginative Grant, 188, Miami via Kingston, Jamaica, rumbled straight ahead, looking for the payoff punch. Though he jolted Cole on occasion, he showed a limited repertoire. The 31-year-old champion was both looser and more versatile.

The action was at close quarters through the middle rounds, and while punishing, it was less fiery than the original encounter. And while the first fight built to a crescendo, Cole was able to pull away in the stretch this time. Grant began to slow in the eighth, giving Cole more room to ply his skills. The 33-year-old challenger made a final bid in the 10th, when Cole, 27-1 (13), suffered a cut right eye and showed a look of consternation as he was muscled around the ring. But Grant, 23-11 (22), was outfought in the final two bruising sessions, leaving no doubt as to the winner this time. The 10th was the only round Grant won on all three cards, and he took only one other round, the seventh, on as many as two cards.

Frank Skilbred and Paul Herman both scored 117-111 and Clark Sammartino 118-110. The referee was Steve Smoger. All four officials are from the USA.

Cole will likely next fight at heavyweight, but he doesn't plan to give up the title.

(6-24-95)

J.R. Jowett

Fabrice Tiozzo W 12 Mike McCallum

Lyon, France: Spurred on by an ecstatic hometown crowd, Tiozzo created a sensation by outpointing the masterful McCallum by unanimous decision and winning the WBC light heavyweight title at the Palaid de Sport. It was McCallum's second defense and 17th world title fight.

Bursting with enthusiasm, Tiozzo showed little sign of being overawed and became the first fighter to knock McCallum to the canvas. McCallum, 174½, Brooklyn, New York, appeared jaded and sluggish. At 38, he may have finally crossed the great divide. At the final bell, he knew, as did everyone in the arena, that Tiozzo, 174¼, St. Denis, France, was worthy of the verdict.

The bout began comfortably enough for the champion, as he jabbed effectively while carefully evading the challenger's crude ripostes. But a clash of heads in the second, which produced a cut at the corner of Tiozzo's left eye, propelled the Frenchman into a state of urgency. As he paced threateningly forward, he threw a vicious hook that caught McCallum's jaw and knocked him completely off-balance. McCallum was forced to support himself with his right glove touching the canvas, and referee Joe Cortez (USA) correctly issued a mandatory eight-count.

Inspired by this exceptional moment, Tiozzo maintained control in the third. The cobwebs sufficiently cleared inside McCallum's head for him to lift round four. Not to be outdone, the 26-year-old Tiozzo raised the pace in the sixth, and as they went toe-to-toe, he gained a distinct advantage. The pressure was still on McCallum in the seventh, when Cortez had to call a temporary halt in order to replace Tiozzo's left glove, which had split open. Refreshed from the respite, McCallum came back in the eighth, but it was only a brief resurgence.

Landing thudding shots with both hands, Tiozzo, 32-1 (21), stunned McCallum, 48-3-1 (36), in round nine before sending his gumshield flying to the floor. Beseiged and steadily weakening, McCallum gallantly attempted to keep his opponent at bay, but it was an increasingly futile endeavor. Tiozzo upheld his momentum and punctuated his superiority with a sustained final-round assault that left McCallum a spent force at the finish.

Tomotsu Tomihara (Japan) scored 115-112, John Keane (England) 116-112, and Victor Cervantes (Mexico) 116-113. THE RING scored for McCallum by 116-113.

"He fought a great fight," said McCallum. "I'd like to get a rematch if I could."

A return is a strong possibility, but Tiozzo also expressed interest in meeting either WBA champion Virgil Hill or IBF king Henry Maske. In his only loss, the Frenchman dropped a close verdict to Hill in April 1993.

(6-16-95)

Brian Doogan

Frankie Randall W 12 Jose Barboza

Lyon, France: Not nearly as dominant as anticipated, Randall was hard-pressed to repel the strong effort mounted by substitute challenger Barboza and scraped through by fortuitous split decision to retain the WBA junior welterweight title at the Palais de Sport. The bout, a co-feature on the Tiozzo-McCallum card, was Randall's second defense.

If Randall, 140, Morristown, Tennessee, wants to secure a third fight with Julio Cesar Chavez, perhaps he could do with more fights like this, for he looked anything but convincing. The 30-year-old Barboza, 139½, Caracas, Venezuela, approached the battle as if it were a waltz in the gym and repeatedly penetrated Randall's defenses. He moved superbly and exhibited a first-class repertoire of punches, causing Randall, 33, all kinds of problems. The champion barely did enough to win, and it was well that the fight hadn't been held in Venezuela, for he surely would have returned home minus his belt.

The French crowd almost generated a hometown atmosphere for the Venezuelan; they got behind the rapid-fire puncher from the opening bell. He caught the champion with a couple of timely shots in the first round and displayed a willingness to slug it out when Randall tried to increase the tempo. The edge in power was clearly held by Randall, 52-3-1 (40), but Barboza, 20-9-3 (11) with 1 no-contest, refused to be intimidated. He varied his snappy punches to the head and body and amazingly made Randall, a pound-for-pound entrant, appear to be quite an ordinary fighter.

A low blow in the sixth by Randall infuriated the challenger, who took that round and the seventh as well. Sensing a shift in momentum, Randall applied some sustained pressure in the eighth, and for the first time hurt Barboza with a hard right in the ninth.

Sprightly once more in the 10th, Barboza held his own but conceded the final two rounds to a man desperate to cling to his title.

Henk Meijers (Holland) and Orlando Sam scored for Randall by 119-111 and 116-114, respectively. Manuel Rodriguez (Colombia) had Barboza in front by 116-114. THE RING saw Randall the winner by 116-115. The referee was Julio Alvarado (Panama).

Barboza is a part-time shoe salesman. This was his second try at a world title; in August 1993, he dropped a decision to then-WBA junior welterweight champion Juan Coggi.

Promoters: Don King and Franck Tiozzo

(6-16-95)

Brian Doogan

Carl Daniels W 12 Julio Cesar Green

Lyon, France: In a one-sided encounter, southpaw Daniels thoroughly outclassed a plodding and deficient Green to win the vacant WBA junior middleweight title on the Tiozzo-McCallum undercard at the Palais de Sport. The title had been surrendered by Pernell Whitaker immediately after he dethroned Julio Cesar Vasquez in March.

Green, 154, Brooklyn, New York via the Dominican Republic, was impotent throughout, and Daniels, 154, St. Louis, Missouri, went about business efficiently, presenting an excellent jab and cross, as well as lateral movement. Never in even the slightest of danger, he captured a world title in his second attempt. (In February 1992, he was stopped in nine rounds by then-WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris.)

From the outset, Daniels, 34-1 (22), seized control by thrusting out an effective jab repeatedly, following with a strong straight left. Green was ineffectually crude by comparison and had a point deducted in round two for dangerous head work that had opened a cut over Daniels' left eye.

The accumulation of leather impacting on Green's face quickly resulted in swelling on his forehead and puffiness around his cheeks. He was proving so easy to catch that Daniels might as well have been holding a sparring session. In essence, the bout ceased to be a contest by the halfway stage.

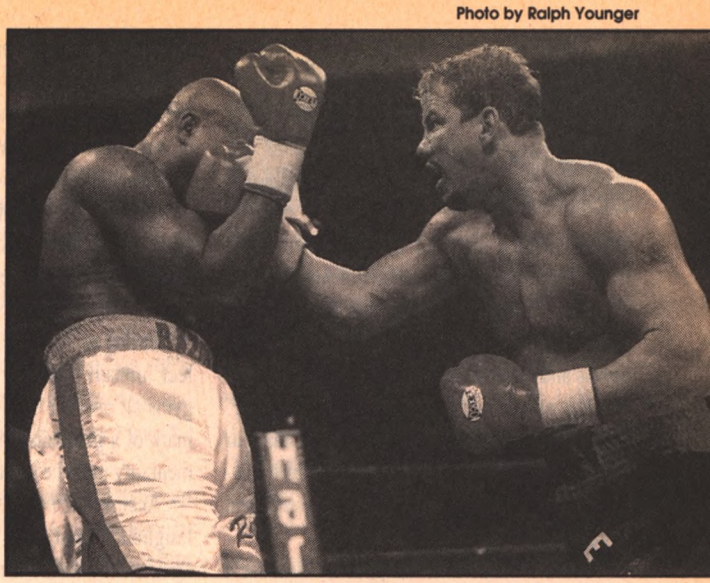
After surviving a few difficult moments in rounds seven and eight, Green, 19-2 (13), was penalized a further point in the ninth by referee John Doyle (England) for more illegal use of his head. But he was punished severely for this indiscretion in the 10th, when a stunning left downed him for a count of nine.

With his left eye swelling grotesquely, Green looked a pitiful sight and encountered a particularly uncomfortable final round before his drubbing was complete. The decision was unanimous, with Philippe Verbeke (Belgium) scoring 119-107, Ove Ovesen (Denmark) 118-108, and Marco Rodriguez (Mexico) 115-111. THE RING had it 119-107.

(6-16-95)

Brian Doogan

Photo by Ralph Younger



In an old-fashioned shootout, Morrison proved sharper than The Razor

Tommy Morrison KO 6 Razor Ruddock

Kansas City, Missouri: To the astonishment of 6,500 fans at the Municipal Auditorium and a pay-per-view television audience, the same Morrison who has always been criticized for having thin stamina, and who had been knocked down in the first round, saved himself with a perfect counter hook that completely changed the complexion of this showdown.

Morrison, 227, Jay, Oklahoma, reestablished himself as a contender, even though the 31-year-old Ruddock, a career-high 243¾, Coral Springs, Florida, had fought only once in 2½ years.

"You can lose in this sport only so many times before people lose confidence in you," said the 26-year-old Morrison, who has been known as much for his partying as his pugilism. "The last two years I've totally dedicated myself to the sport and to getting my life straight."

When Morrison was downed by a right uppercut 55 seconds into the bout, it seemed Ruddock's considerable power would overwhelm him. But "The Duke" rebounded with his own right uppercut in the second, prompting referee Ron Lipton (USA) to issue Ruddock a standing eight-count. In a fast-paced bout, the bombers traded shots in the third, fourth, and fifth. Going into the sixth, Morrison led on the cards of Tim Figley and Gary Merritt (both 47-46), while Larry Dickey had it 47-47. All three judges are from the USA.

Halfway through the sixth, Morrison, 45-2-1 (39), exploded with a hook to the chin, and Ruddock, 28-5-1 (20), dropped as if shot. Incredibly, he rose at Lipton's count of three.

"In 40 years in boxing, the only time I ever saw such power in one punch was George Foreman's hook against George Chuvalo," Lipton told THE RING. "I think Ruddock was unconscious, and hitting the floor snapped him back."

Ruddock was never given an opportunity to recover; from the knockdown to Lipton's stoppage, he threw three punches to Morrison's 67. Morrison followed with a rapid-fire flurry that drew another standing eight-count, and when he snapped back Ruddock's head with a left, Lipton intervened at the 2:55 mark.

"I let Tommy punch himself out and he was dead-tired," said Ruddock. "If we come out for another round, he's dead."

Promoter: Tony Holden

(6-10-95)

Bill Haisten ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

Castillo holds a fistful of medals earned as the star of Mexico's national amateur team.

The 5'7" Magana floored his fellow southpaw in the first round, but Castillo rose from the canvas and made sure not to return there.

"His experience took over my experience," recalled Magana, who fought only 11 amateur bouts. "I couldn't finish him off. But I also realized that with the proper training, I could beat this guy. I could become something.

"Most of my losses happened because I wasn't close to being in shape. I got to thinking how good I might become if I just bothered to train and dedicate myself to being the best I could be. Now I'm much more disciplined and work very hard. I'm confident I can beat anybody."

"When we started moving Jesse," co-manager Joe "Handsome" Hernandez admitted, "we didn't think he would turn out to be as good a fighter as he's going to be." Magana, he figured, was a feisty kid who needed a challenge.

"He didn't need special handling; he needed tough opponents to wake him up," Hernandez added. "He always felt he could fight. What made him better was the losses. He said, 'Wait a minute, I can't continue losing.' And he got very serious."

"Jesse has never been in a bad fight, not in the early days and not now," said Forum Boxing publicist John Beyrooty. "When he lost to Castillo, he just ran out of gas. Now he's already been stretched 12 rounds. He's fighting more experienced guys, and he's still winning."

In January, Magana stepped up in class and kayoed former world title challenger Rudy Zavala in the fifth round. And in April, in a hard-fought give-and-take contest, he took a majority 12-round decision over veteran Max Gomez.

"What I want now," Magana said, "is to win a couple fights and then challenge Marco Antonio Barrera. It would be a tremendous fight."

Why Barrera? Because Magana, having retained his streetfighting instincts, was roiled by a remark.

"They threw the first stone," he said. "When somebody asked them about me, they said I was not an opponent worth fighting."

Magana, who fights out of Hanford, California, and supplements his less than expansive boxing income with an occasional day job, still encounters ring problems because of a lack of experience.

Trainer and co-manager Martin Higuera was upset that in his last fight, Magana failed to kayo the bruising Ricardo Medina, who, going in, was 13-5-4 (9). Instead, Magana came away with an easy decision win.

"Jesse had Medina in trouble with some good combinations a couple times, but then he started boxing," Higuera said. "I told him afterward, 'Why did you do that?'"

Easing up to allow a sparring partner to collect himself happens day after day in boxing gyms all over the world. It's gym etiquette—the mark of a gentleman. But in a money fight, that mentality must be left behind.

Accused of being too gentlemanly, Magana laughed. "That does happen," he said. "But against Medina, when I got him in trouble, I think I just got too excited. I should have worked the body and made him drop his hands, then finished him. It was more from lack of experience."

Higuera also wants Magana to jab more and to concentrate even more on defense.

"Jesse has terrific power and speed, and he can take punches when he has to," Higuera said. "But he still has a lot to learn. We still have things we need to work on in the gym."

Just like always, no one is spoiling Jesse Magana. ■

***Ivan G. Goldman, a Los Angeles-based freelancer, is a frequent contributor to* THE RING.**

Ancee Gedeon

(Continued from page 31)

non-profit Los Angeles gym that has been home for Gedeon for almost a year. He has a bed there, and helps earn his keep by cleaning the gym and teaching boxing to some of the nearly 80 members, many of whom are kids just off the street—just like Gedeon once was.

"I'm a good kid," Gedeon said. "When I was coming up, growing up with no mom or dad, no family or stuff ... boxing [became] a big part of my life. It changed my life for the best. If it weren't for boxing, I'd probably be dead now or locked up somewhere.

"That's the same thing I tell these kids. This one kid, I tell him the same stuff. He likes to get in fights on the street, but I talk to him. He comes to the gym and works out sometimes. I told him, 'Man, forget the street fights. You come to the gym. You want to fight, you fight right here. Sergio's his name. He listens to me, and that's good. He told me this guy would get in his face. Yesterday, he told me, 'I just walked away. I listened to what you say.'"

Gedeon speaks from experience, and he speaks honestly. The kids he works with respect that. And now they have another reason to be proud of him: He's worked his way close to a world title opportunity. After capturing the USBA title from Reyes, he proudly wore the championship belt for 15 minutes in the locker room before having to return it to the former titleholder. Now Gedeon and his gymmates anxiously await his own belt.

No matter what happens in his boxing future, Gedeon will always look back at the Reyes fight with fond memories. That's because he doesn't have many others. It's been mostly a life of survival. He says he thinks he turned 25 on May 22. He can be forgiven if most of his life seems like a blur or a bad dream. His recollections are the kind most people would be eager to repress: the boat trip to Miami Beach in 1980; his parents splitting up and going to live in the countryside while leaving him with an aunt; visiting his mom and dad only once since the family came to the USA, and being with them for only a couple of hours; the death of his aunt, whose name he can't even remember; running away with his cousin to live on the streets; living in foster homes for several years.

Gedeon remembers having three brothers and a sister. He hasn't seen them in 15 years and has little idea where they are. He's been too busy surviving.

When he was about 15, he drifted to Tucson, Arizona. "I used to watch a lot of boxing on TV. I used to have nothing better to do," he recalled. "I decided I wanted to do that. The first boxing club I went into, I say, 'I'd like to learn how to box.' They ask me, 'Do you know boxing form?' I go, 'No.' They told me to come back the next day. So I left and went to a different gym, Estevant Gym, a city gym. I say the same thing; 'I'd like to learn how to box.' They asked me if I knew how to box, and I said no. They go 'Okay.' They talked to me nicer, you know. That second place was more like they wanted to teach me. So I went there. From there I started boxing."

Gedeon's amateur career was neither long nor outstanding. There were no titles, no tournament championships. "My first amateur fight, I fought this guy with five or six fights," the amiable fighter recalled. "I got a nosebleed and everything. We got in a van to go back home and I asked myself, *Do I really want to do this? Yeah!* I have the love for it.

"I had about 20 amateur fights, didn't win anything major. They had a Golden Gloves tournament in Los Angeles, so I went there to fight

My first fight I fought this guy from LA, and I thought, *I got him.* I did beat him, but they gave him the decision. So I went back to Arizona and said, 'I'm never going to fight amateur again. If I'm going to get hit, I might as well get paid for it.'"

Gedeon's pro debut came on March 8, 1990, against Ezequiel Lopez in Arizona. He won a four-round decision. In fact, he won his first seven bouts, fought from 119 to 121 pounds, before being matched with Julian Ramirez in December 1990. "The guy I was supposed to fight didn't show up," Gedeon said. "They came up with this guy from Albuquerque, about 133 pounds, and asked me if I wanted to fight him. I said sure. I thought I won the fight, but they turned around and gave him a split decision."

Thus began the down period of Gedeon's career. He started 1991 with a second-round TKO of Edgar Garcia in Phoenix, but after that became a road opponent, someone tossed in to fatten a hometown hero's record. Over the next three years, Gedeon went an incredible 0-6-1, facing the likes of Paul Gonzales, Henry Martinez, and Mark Johnson. None of them could knock him out, though, and only the sensational Johnson clearly beat him in a bout that came after Gedeon had been off for 25 months.

"I started boxing again because people told me, 'No, man, don't quit. You're good; stick with it,'" Gedeon said. "So that's what I did. I came to California, to this gym. People used to come over to me and say they'd do this for me, they'd do that for me. I just listened; I didn't have no manager or nobody. The whole time Jesse used to tell me, 'If you want me to help you out, I'm here.' I used to just keep training. Finally, me and my coach, Noe Cruz, went and talked with Jesse, and we took it from there. We're a team, me and Jesse and Noe and [co-trainer] Burney Spencer. Jesse's my manager. I do what he suggests. It works."

"He saw my fighters, the caliber of them, and he asked me if he could fight for me," recalled Reid, who helped start the Westminster Boxing Club 21 years ago at a different site. Reid has trained several world-class fighters, including world champions Orlando Canizales, Floyd Mayweather, and Bruce Curry.

"I didn't know [Gedeon] personally," Reid continued. "I knew he was a kid on the streets. I had helped him with buying a bed so he'd have a place to sleep. And I loaned him some money sometimes—never *gave* him anything, he always wanted to borrow it. I saw this kid with this talent, but I didn't know if he was trustworthy or if I had a kid I could really put my heart and soul into. Even though he had the talent, I didn't want to take a chance. So I told him, 'I'll watch you for a while and if I think you're good enough, I'll sign you up.'"

Reid said he was haunted by memories of Montell Griffin, now a world-ranked light heavyweight, whom he had brought along as an amateur until the fighter jumped to greener fields. Reid soon found, however, that Gedeon was no Griffin. Nor was he a Curry, who came from a similar street background but was difficult to work with. Despite his rough edges and limited formal education, Gedeon was a coach's dream.

"It took me about five months [to make up my mind]," Reid said. "Finally, I told myself, 'Listen, this kid's for real. I'm going to give him a shot.' Ancee turned out to be a fine young man. He's had the best education you can get, and that's practical experience. None of the things that happened to him in his career really worked out for the best at that time except for one thing: It showed Ancee that life is very tough, and people out there have ways they play games on you.

"It doesn't make any difference to me if this kid is 20-20, because he hasn't been handled properly. Ancee probably whipped every one of those guys, but because of the politics of boxing, which we all know about, he lost split decisions."

Since hooking up with Reid, Gedeon is 5-0. He won twice in a three-day span last December, and has followed with three major upsets in 1995. His rise to contender status is reminiscent of the sudden emergence of other recent fighters with mediocre records, such as Freddie Pendleton and Julio Borboa. Both of those fighters went on to win world crowns.

Reid picked his spots carefully and even delivered a personal message to the judges of Gedeon's fights: "I looked them in the face and said, 'Listen to me. This is going to be a great fight. This kid is a homeless young man that is trying to make his way, and he deserves better than somebody screwing him. If he wins, I want you men to be men and judge him in a fair way. That's all I want.'"

In January, a comebacking Quiroga dropped Gedeon to one knee with a right to the chin. It's the only time Gedeon has ever been down. He bounced back to outbox the former world champion and win an eight-round majority decision. Against Luna Zarate, Gedeon won nearly every round and frustrated his big-hitting rival, whose only other defeat had come in a world title try vs. Borboa.

Then came Reyes, who was aiming for an October date with South African IBF bantamweight champion Mbulelo Botile. A hook to the chin with 30 seconds remaining in the opening round dropped Reyes, setting the tone. Gedeon subsequently outboxed his favored rival, punching first to pile up points, then cementing the decision with a knockdown in round 11. Laurence Cole, Ronnie Ralston, and Jerry McKenzie, three of Texas' best referees, proved themselves excellent judges, too, by giving Gedeon the nod by scores of 118-108 (Cole), 119-107 (Ralston), and 118-109 (McKenzie). THE RING scored for Gedeon by 117-110.

Reid savored the victory, especially because he had been upset by some of Reyes' comments after the Texan's controversial title fight loss to Canizales last October. "It's a great win for me because I know what Reyes does wrong," he said. "He doesn't live right on the streets. And this kid Ancee does live right. This is a gentleman, a citizen, and he fights. That's the difference.

"Sergio Reyes and all them wanted to pull out, but the one person who helped Ancee, the only reason he got that fight, was Brad Jacobs of the USA Network, who took my word and put faith in what I told him about Ancee and backed us. I told Ancee that no matter what, that's who we fight for, that's who we're going to stay behind—the people who believe in you, who've done a good job for you.

"Now I'm trying to position Ancee in the right place to make him the most money and get him the best exposure. Let him fight for a world title he can win. I think he can win them all, but I don't think he can win them all in certain areas. I'd love to meet [Botile] in Las Vegas; I think Ancee'd destroy him there. The fight I really want is the WBC champ [Yasuei Yakushiji]. I want to get so much publicity about Ancee, I want people to start talking about him, and I want to get him in those WBC ratings high. [Gedeon was ranked 14th before defeating Reyes.] I'll wait a year to get that fight, to get him a mandatory, because a champion from Japan is not going to fight Ancee unless he's number one. And Ancee will destroy him."

For his part, Gedeon doesn't really care who he's matched with. "All I do is just fight," he said. "I'll fight anyone out there."

Now that he's in the captain's chair, the sharks had better guard their own tails. ■

Bruce Williams,* THE RING'S *correspondent for Mexico, is based in Austin, Texas.

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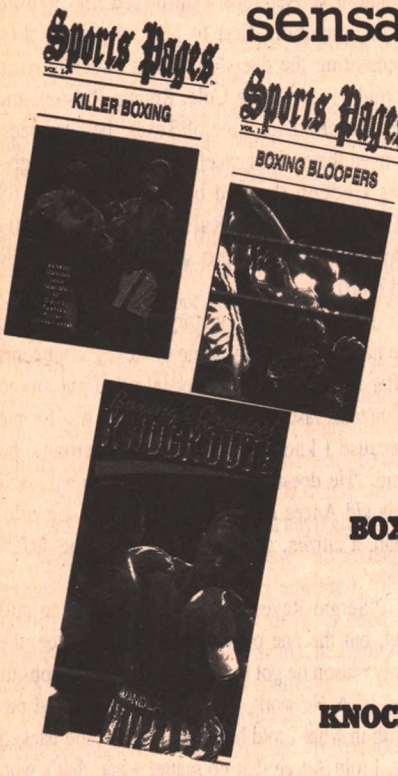

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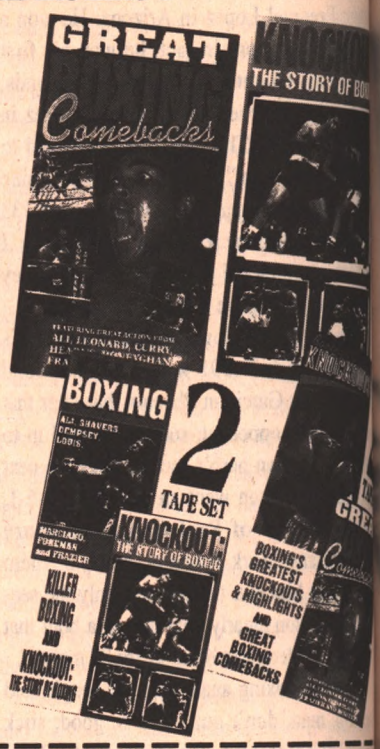

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Jones-Paz

(Continued from page 37)

ing to make any ring sacrifice, seemed tamed. If he didn't punch at Jones, he seemed to be thinking, he would minimize the champion's opportunities to punch at him. The CompuBox numbers for round four suggested Paz followed that safety-first philosophy to an extreme; he threw five blows and landed not a single one. Must be the shoes.

All the while, Jones' jab was snapping back Paz' head and carving up his face. By the end of the fifth, Paz' right eye was not just grotesquely swollen, but cut, too. "I seen his [jab] coming, I just wasn't moving enough," he said.

The three-knockdown finish in the sixth served as a haunting reminder of the postfight press conference following Paz-Duran II in January. Standing in the back of the interview room, Jones expressed trepidation about a proposed exorcism of "The Pazmanian Devil." "I'm not in boxing to hurt anybody," he said. "I care about people. If something happened, I'd have to live with myself."

If that sounded self-serving, if not ridiculous, at the time, it was not so easily dismissed when Paz began bouncing off the canvas. Knockdown number one came when a pair of hooks left Paz on his knees and desperately grasping the top rope. After the mandatory count of referee Tony Orlando (USA), the challenger backtracked with his hands by his sides. As if to illustrate the diversity of his attack, Jones scored knockdown number two with a pair of rights. Paz' final fall, courtesy of a single hook, came as Orlando was approaching to issue a mercy stoppage. The official time of the finish was 2:58 of the sixth.

"He has the heart of a champion; he was in a very tough situation and he kept coming," Jones said of Pazienza. "The final time ... I wanted to tell the ref to stop the fight. I don't like to fight anyone who's hurt." Like Larry Holmes in his prime, Jones not only determines the terms of the battle, but of the surrender as well.

Was it really as easy as it had seemed? Consider that after the most low-key of postfight celebrations, Jones greeted the dawn by running for a half-hour on the Boardwalk. We forgot to ask him if he wore Nikes.

***

Jones' next bout will likely be a mandatory defense against Tony Thornton in Pensacola. Nothing wrong with "The Punching Postman"; the mailbag is a bit tattered around the edges, but at 35, he can still deliver. Of course, Jones is so good, his face may end up on a stamp someday. He deserves better than Thornton—much better. Applicants should send their resumes to Square Ring Inc., Pensacola, Florida 32501.

"We're hoping somewhere Roy does get tested," said Levin. "The boxing world hasn't seen 60 percent of his talents. We made an approach for [Whitaker] at 158 pounds, with a morning-of-the-fight weigh-in, sort of an ultimate pound-for-pound showdown. Predictably, we were turned down. Roy's thought about going back down and taking Bernard Hopkins' [IBF middleweight] title because he feels it was forced from him. And from his sparring with Al Cole, we know Roy can go to light heavyweight or cruiserweight."

Managing Jones is all about keeping options opened. Problem is, none of the options is particularly attractive. At this point, the fight that would make the most sense is a unification at super middleweight with WBC champion Nigel Benn. At least that's the fight Jones talks about.

"The only guy who could give me a test is Benn," he said. "He's a warrior. He may bring out the best in me."

Recent history suggests Jones, a big fan of cockfighting, is more likely to don the spurs and clash with the San Diego Chicken than trade punches with Benn. That's because Benn is promoted by Don King, and unless there are zillions to be made, DK fighters face only other DK fighters. Moreover, Jones is contracted to HBO, which hasn't done business with King since Jones was in diapers—or so it seems.

"We'd never give options to Don King, with one exception," said Levin. "That's [for a bout with WBA heavyweight champion] Bruce Seldon. And that's because Roy would win the title and not fight heavyweight anymore."

As for the ultimate—and perhaps ultimately ridiculous—challenge, Jones said, "I ain't messin' with Mike Tyson right now."

Ali had his Frazier. Leonard had his Duran and Hearns. If Jones doesn't find *someone*, 10 years from now we might still be defining him by his 1994 victory over James Toney. Or maybe we're underestimating the brilliance of his star. And that's where Nike comes in. If Jones starts making enough commercials, it might not matter who he fights.

"I'll never get bored, because my fights are also performances," he said.

You just know those sneaker guys love talk like that. ■

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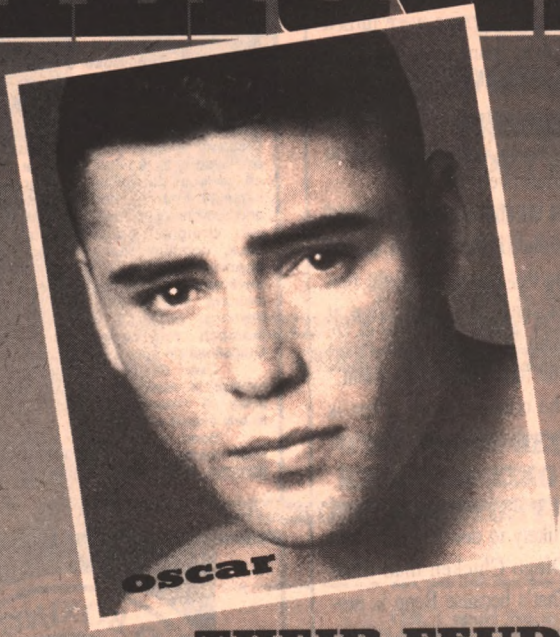

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Fighting Harada

(Continued from page 39)

ncluding an amateur boxing card, a golf tournament, a picnic, the largest boxing collectors show in the world, and a gala banquet. And as always, there were countless opportunities for fans to meet some of the greatest personalities in the sport.

Joe Frazier, Ken Norton, Bob Foster, Emile Griffith, and Alexis Arguello headed an all-star lineup of more than two-dozen Hall of Famers, current and former world champions, contenders, and boxing personalities who welcomed the inductees and eagerly engaged the 10,000-plus who made the annual pilgrimage to the sport's only shrine.

In addition to Gomez, Harada, Montgomery, and Mercante, there were 11 inductees in four different categories. Heavyweight kings Tom Johnson (18th century) and Jem Ward (19th century) were added to the Pioneer section. Legendary flyweight king Pascual Perez joined the Modern group. Former world champions Max Baer (heavyweight), Jack Dillon (light heavyweight), Johnny Kilbane (featherweight), and Jack McAuliffe (lightweight) were welcomed to the Old-Timer class. And enshrined in the Non-Participant section were Cus D'Amato (trainer/manager), Gilbert Odd (author/historian), George Siler (referee), and Jack Solomons (promoter).

***

Harada, the only man ever to win the flyweight and bantamweight titles, came to Canastota from Japan with an entourage. "I was overwhelmed," he said through an interpreter. "I have received many honors in boxing, but this is the highest honor."

Harada's 10-year career (1960-1970) was punctuated by two wins over legendary Hall of Famer Eder Jofre. Harada never fought in the United States, but all American fans had to do was view the bounce in the 52-year-old barrel-chested Japanese's walk to know that he was a human fireball that threw punches from opening to closing bell.

Japan's greatest and most popular boxing figure burst onto the world stage in 1962, when, at age 19, he won the world flyweight title from Thailand's Pone Kingpetch. Losing the title in a rematch three months later was a sobering experience.

"Nobody in Japan expected a 19-year-old to become a world champion," he said. "I was on top of the world. But when I lost the title, everybody who had flocked to me disappeared. That experience opened my eyes. It made me rededicate myself to winning another world title."

Championship number two would be no easy task. Harada challenged then-undefeated bantamweight champion Jofre in May 1965. He overwhelmed and outpointed the masterful Brazilian over 15 rounds, then repeated the feat 13 months later. Harada is the only fighter to have beaten Jofre, who enjoyed a 78-bout career.

"The first time I fought Jofre, he was considered the best champion in the game," Harada said of his split decision win. "I had great respect for him. But I didn't worry about how good he was. I just went after him and did what I did best—attack. In the second fight, I was champion. I was more confident and relaxed, but I still pressed him from the beginning."

After Harada made four successful defenses of the 118-pound crown, he was outpointed by Lionel Rose in February 1968. That setback didn't bother him as much as his controversial loss to another Australian, Johnny Famechon. Harada, who battled the scales throughout his career, again moved up in weight and challenged the world featherweight king in July 1969 in Sydney. It was an exciting fight. The champion hit the canvas three times and the challenger once. Although many Australians believed Harada won his third title that day, referee Willie Pep, the sole judge, gave Famechon the nod by a point.

When asked about the decision, an exasperated Harada exhaled and shook his head from side to side. No interpreter was needed. Pep, who is a regular in Canastota, said he didn't recall any details about the fight. Neither man sought the other out.

Harada was stopped by Famechon in the return match and then retired—for good—at age 27. His overall mark: 55-7 (22).

"That's the way I planned it," he said. "I left boxing with all of my faculties. I enjoyed my career very much. It gave me many opportunities."

Harada remains active in boxing as a manager and trainer. He owns a gym and is president of the Japanese Managers Association. Seven Japanese companies bought ads in the IBHF induction program to congratulate their nation's greatest ringmaster.

***

Philadelphia's Montgomery enjoys a similar reputation on the streets and in the gyms of that city. Though he owns wins over Hall of Famers Beau Jack, Ike Williams, and Fritzie Zivic, "The Bobcat" didn't protest when his contemporaries were enshrined before he was. It was left to Philadelphia promoter Russell Peltz to lobby boxing writers on Montgomery's behalf. But the genteel gentleman, who split a four-fight series with Jack (three were title fights) and lost the lightweight crown to Williams, is not at all bitter.

"They were all great fighters and deserved the honor," said the 76-year-old inductee. "I'm just glad to have made it. This is such a great thrill. I have no complaints."

Some of today's fighters would be wise to read up on Montgomery and the road he took to enshrinement. His father was a sharecropper and his grandfather a slave in the West Indies. His maternal side of the family has a rich Cherokee heritage. Montgomery's skin color and ethnicity all but guaranteed a path tougher than any ring opponent.

Montgomery was born in South Carolina and moved to Philadelphia as a teenager. He turned pro in 1938, and won his first 23 bouts. In 1943, he outpointed Jack to win the New York version of the 135-pound title. He lost, then regained the title, from Jack, but it was their non-title bout at Madison Square Garden in August 1944 that has kept them in the record books. The 15,822 in attendance generated an astounding live gate of $35-

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million, and the proceeds of the bout were donated toward war bonds. Soon after, both Montgomery and Jack joined the Army.

After the war, Montgomery resumed his career, losing to NBA lightweight champion Williams in 1947. After retiring, he worked as a salesman for Balentine beer for 20 years, and in the early-'70s became an inner-city youth counselor at the request of then-mayor Frank Rizzo.

"My father has lived a good life," said Bob Montgomery Jr., the fighter's only son, who accompanied him to Canastota. "He worked hard and was a success in and out of the ring. He's a patriotic man who is proud of everything he's been a part of. But he's never shown that much emotion. And I've never heard him brag.

"He wasn't even moved when I told him back in January that he'd made it into the Hall. But when they played the National Anthem at the beginning of the induction ceremonies, I could see it in his eyes. It was his finest hour. I can't tell you how happy I am that he lived for that moment."

***

It was thought by some that three-division champion Gomez, the greatest 122-pounder in history, would not be present for his induction. A drug charge hangs over his head back in his native Puerto Rico. Yet the black cloud that comes with that charge didn't follow him to central New York State. Gomez, who has gained more than 100 pounds since terrorizing junior featherweights in the late-'70s and early-'80s, was virtually unrecognizable.

Like Montgomery, Gomez rarely spoke. But when he did, it was from the heart. At the Saturday banquet, he said one of the greatest benefits received from boxing was the ability to provide his children with a good education. At the induction ceremonies the next day, he said, "This prize is not for me. It is for Puerto Rico." But when he returned to his seat, he immediately put the diamond ring that is issued to all inducted, on his finger.

"Nobody has ever done that before," said Don Ackerman, the president of the IBHF. "It was a very emotional moment for him. You could see he was filled with pride. It was very moving."

***

Perhaps the most poignant moment of the induction ceremonies came when Mercante was introduced by his son, Arthur Jr., who, like his father, is considered one of boxing's finest referees. The 75-year-old Mercante began his career as an amateur referee during World War II and remains active to this day. He switched to the pro ranks in 1954, and is best known for having worked the first Ali-Frazier fight in 1971. Most recently, Mercante refereed the WBC super bantamweight title bout between Hector Acero-Sanchez and Daniel Zaragoza.

"My father taught me everything inside the ring and outside," said Arthur Jr., who was on hand along with Arthur Sr.'s two brothers, three other sons, wife, friends, and co-workers. No one was surprised that Mercante was accompanied by one of the biggest entourages since the Hall opened its doors. Being one of the true gentlemen of boxing does have its rewards. A geriatric marvel, Mercante seems at least 10 years from retirement.

***

The IBHF's induction weekend was another smashing success. The Hall's officials no longer have to hope that the voters elect bankable personalities. Canastota has become a place where fans come to pay homage to their heroes. And as long as there are induction weekends every June, they'll keep coming. ■

Ed Maloney, a veteran of Hall of Fame induction weekends, is a columnist for World Boxing.

Bowe-Gonzalez

(Continued from page 41)

why he waited so long to put on such a spectacular show. The same experts who praised him for his natural ability condemned him for not using it. After all, following his gloriously brutal victory over Evander Holyfield in November 1992, the new champion looked like a legend-in-the-making, an enormous man with enormous talent. He would hold the crown, the experts said, as long as he wanted to.

As it turned out, that was not very long. Bowe defeated Michael Dokes and Jesse Ferguson in his first two defenses, registering spectacular knockouts against less-than-spectacular opposition, and fans began clamoring for the legend to fight a real opponent. Reenter Holyfield, who regained the crown from an out-of-shape and seemingly uninterested champion about a year after their first fight.

"At this stage of his career, Bowe could have beaten Joe Louis," Rock Newman, who manages Bowe, had said before the Holyfield rematch.

Futch, who had not heard the comment, shook his head when it was quoted to him. The trainer was so fond of Bowe that he seemed to regard him as a son, and he was high on him as a fighter, to saying that he had the potential to become his fa heavyweight ever. It was great praise coming fro a man who had trained Joe Frazier, Larry Holme and Ken Norton. But better than Louis? One da perhaps. But not now, Futch said, not at this stag of his career.

"Did Rock really say that?" Futch aske incredulously.

To make matters worse, Bowe seemed to for get that a heavyweight champion is a fighter firs a celebrity second. The titleholder went on a glob al tour during his reign, a trip masterminded b Newman and intended to turn the champion into political figure, a kind of latter-day Muhamma Ali. Bowe visited the starving children in Somal and the Pope in Italy, and throughout his journey his belly grew along with his fame.

"Don't be a second-rate Muhammad Ali," Futch had told the young fighter early in hi career. "Be a first-rate Riddick Bowe."

Bowe had apparently forgotten the advice.

"I got away from my training after I won th title," Bowe said. "A world champion should con stantly keep himself in shape. It was a learning experience. I'll be at my best from now."

In his bouts after the Holyfield rematch, Bowe appeared sluggish and overweight, a guy whos idea of a jab was to stick a fork into a slab of steak That was the perception, anyway, but was it fair? After all, in his three matches before the Gonzalez bout, Bowe faced Buster Mathis Jr., Larry Donald and Herbie Hide, hardly world-beaters, but cer tainly capable fighters who were among the faste heavyweights in boxing. One other thing: All thre were undefeated. Still, HBO, which televise Bowe-Gonzalez, titled its prefight feature "Decli Of An Ex-Champ."

Bowe may not have looked sensational again Mathis, Donald, and Hide, but if styles make fights—an unoriginal view, but an accurate one then it was the style of each boxer that made Bowe look less than impressive. Mathis and Donald were intent on surviving, flitting around the ri like hummingbirds in short pants. Nonetheless after those fights, Mathis was down and out (after from an illegal blow) and Donald looked as if h had fought on the inside for 12 brutal rounds, h face so swollen and discolored that it resembled western sunset. As for Hide, the Englishman wa the only one bold enough to fight Bowe, and h paid for it, suffering seven knockdowns.

"Every time Hide got up, I thought, 'This *amazing*,'" Bowe recalled. "But it looked like h wanted more, so I gave him more."

More is precisely what he wanted to giv

Gonzalez, a nemesis since their amateur days. Gonzalez scored a close decision over Bowe at the Pan-Am Games in 1987, registering a knockdown and two standing eight-counts against his younger opponent. "Man, that cat can hit, I'll give him credit for that," Bowe said afterward.

After defecting from Cuba in 1991, Gonzalez chased Bowe from venue to venue, belittling Big Daddy, his wife, his trainer, and his manager. Gonzalez emerged as the kind of villain usually found in professional wrestling—loud, brash, and easy to hate. He was the perfect foil for the likable Bowe.

"I *keel* you!" Gonzalez shouted at Bowe before the match.

"I keel you back," Bowe responded.

When the bout started, and when the weapons went from words to fists, Gonzalez, 237, Las Vegas via Cuba, was outgunned. In the first round, Bowe, 243, Fort Washington, Maryland, backed him up with a jab, a battering ram with a glove attached to it. Bowe had said he would try to fight Gonzalez on the inside, where the 6'\7" Cuban feels uncomfortable, but the truth is that it didn't matter where the 6'\5" Bowe fought—on the inside or the outside—because he was so dominant that he obliterated any comfort zone his opponent might have enjoyed.

Toward the end of the fourth round, Bowe, 37-1 (31), cracked the 30-year-old Gonzalez, 23-1 (22), with two jabs to the jaw, blows that sent him halfway across the ring, his tuft of hair flying like a set of tassels as he bounced off the ropes. The round ended, but Bowe, apparently unable to hear the bell above the roar of the crowd, kept whacking his opponent. Referee Mills Lane (USA) finally pried the champion loose, saving Gonzalez for almost two more rounds of punishment.

The kayo ending, which seemed inevitable from the start, came in the sixth round. Bowe landed a chopping right to the jaw, and Gonzalez nosedived to the canvas, taking two more punches before he crumpled to the floor. Lane stopped the count at six, with Gonzalez sprawled on the floor, face down, as motionless as a throw rug. The knockout came at the 1:50 mark.

"I could have kept counting to 60," Lane later said.

The judges were Duane Ford, Jerry Roth, and Chuck Giampa, all from the USA.

In the end, the most impressive part of the evening was the poise displayed by the 27-year-old Bowe. He remained calm and relaxed, refusing to succumb to the bitterness he felt toward his opponent. Gonzalez may have been an inferior opponent, but Bowe was still awesome, turning in the most dominant effort by a heavyweight in years, the performance his fans and critics alike had been expecting since the first Holyfield fight.

"What can I say?" former WBC champion and potential Bowe opponent Lennox Lewis asked rhetorically, grudgingly praising Bowe. "He did what he had to do."

Futch was more effusive.

"Bowe showed that fire again," he said. "He showed the fire he had on his way up to winning the title. For a while, I didn't know if he would get it back, but he did tonight."

And Bowe promised to keep that fire burning.

"I wanted to impress everybody and show them that Riddick Bowe is back," he said.

Now that he *is* back, Bowe wants Holyfield or Tyson. He'll likely get Tommy Morrison. As Foreman might say, that's bad news for all three of them. ■

Robert Seltzer is a boxing writer based in El Paso, Texas.

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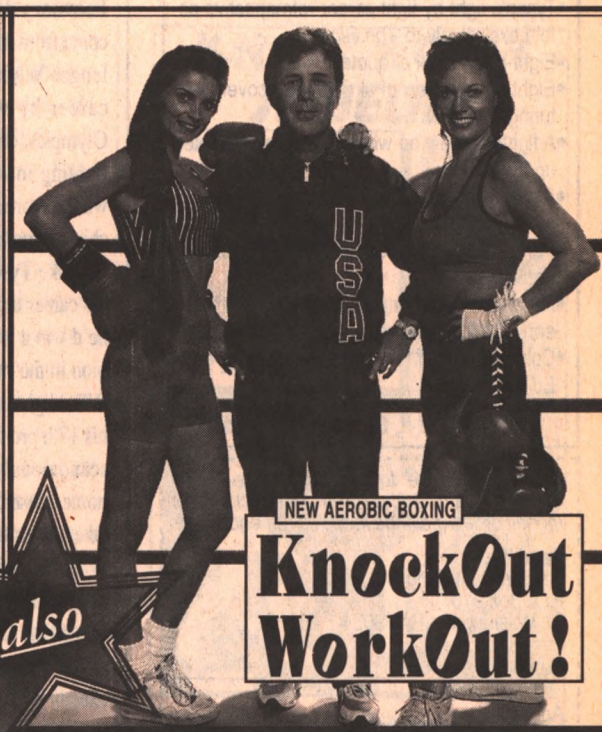

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Mike Tyson

(Continued from page 27)

seen him fight already knew he was the baddest man on the planet.

Adding to the overwhelming sentiment in Tyson's favor was Berbick's prosaic championship credentials. True, he'd won the title by outpointing Pinklon Thomas earlier in the year, but losses to Larry Holmes, Renaldo Snipes, and ST Gordon left observers with the distinct impression that the transplanted Jamaican would be easy meat for the rampaging challengers. How right they were.

Berbick managed to survive the opening round, but in the second he was the victim of one of the most bizarre knockouts in history. A murderous hook from Tyson left Berbick so stunned that he went down *three* times from *one* punch. Twice he lurched to his feet after crashing, only to flop down again. His equilibrium was completely shot, and referee Mills Lane had no choice but to call it off 2:35 into the round.

•

Pernell Whitaker vs. Greg Haugen, February 18, 1989: Seldom have two fighters come from more diverse backgrounds. While challenger Whitaker had capped a stellar amateur career by winning a gold medal at the '84 Olympics, champion Haugen had begun his career fighting in toughman tournaments in Alaska. It was a thoroughbred against a mongrel, a blue-chipper versus a walk-on from the boonies.

Like Tyson, Whitaker was recognized early in his career as a special talent. Everybody assumed he'd win a world title the first time he got a champion in the ring with him. But when he challenged WBC lightweight champion Jose Luis Ramirez in his 17th pro fight, "Sweet Pea" was the victim of a scandalously bad decision in France and went home a loser. Two fights later, he got the chance to take out his frustrations on Haugen.

Whitaker had so many things going for him, only a nincompoop or a member of Haugen's immediate family would have bet a subway token on the champion to retain the title. The fight went exactly as expected. After one knockdown and 12 one-sided rounds, Whitaker had his first pro title.

•

Julio Cesar Chavez vs. Roger Mayweather, May 13, 1989: Even though Chavez had knocked out Mayweather in two rounds in July '85, there was still considerable interest in their second bout. Mayweather had won the WBC super lightweight title in the interim and built a reputation as a Mexican-killer by beating a series of Chavez' countrymen. Even so, wins over Rene Arredondo, Mauricio Aceves, and Gato Gonzalez weren't enough to make him the favorite, just enough to lure more than 10,000 Mexicans and Mexican-Americans to the Great Western Forum to see the mighty Chavez put him in his place.

The defending champion was an underdog, but a *live* underdog. Mayweather had managed to rock Chavez with a hard right during their first brief encounter, and once again gave "J.C. Superstar" an interesting outing. But the challenger's relentless attack finally wore him down both physically and mentally. At the end of the 10th round, Mayweather surrendered the title while sitting on his stool. ∎

What If ...

(Continued from page 29)

armed robbery and parole violation.

Scott returned to boxing in 1978, when he won the right to fight professionally from within the confines of Rahway. His upset victory over the highly touted Gregory in October 1978 started a march through the division. Over a 10-month span, prisoner number 57735 stopped contenders Richie Kates (KO 10), Bunny Johnson (KO 7), and Ennio Cometti (KO 6), and decisioned Jerry Celestine and Lopez. If the well-publicized fact that Scott did 300 pushups a day hadn't caught the public's attention, the methodical destruction of his opponents certainly did.

"Who's left for me to fight?" asked Scott. "Saad's already knocked out the other guy [Johnson]. Both of them have fought just about everyone else in the division, too. Ain't nobody for them to fight that I haven't beaten. Give me a shot at either one of them."

Saad Muhammad, previously known as Matthew Franklin, was also riding the crest. After stopping the tough Lopez for the U.S. crown, Saad, badly cut and behind on the cards, blasted the WBC crown off the head of Johnson with a devastating right hand. Then he announced his embracing of the Muslim religion and officially changed his name. Saad made a successful first defense by winning a war of attrition against former champion John Conteh. It was his 11th straight win, eighth by knockout.

Speculation about a Saad Muhammad-Scott

fight reached a peak in early-1980. However, from a financial standpoint, the fight made sense only if Scott were able to secure parole, even temporarily, and be allowed to fight outside of Rahway. Scott could be abrasive and arrogant. In addition, public sentiment was split on whether or not a convicted felon should be allowed to fight at all, let alone outside prison walls. Another consideration was Saad Muhammad's reluctance to return to the ring so soon after his grueling wars with Johnson and Conteh. The timing just wasn't right for the fight.

THE WAY IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN

The official announcement issued by the parole board at Rahway State Prison heralds one of the strangest set of circumstances surrounding a title fight in the history of boxing: "Due to Mr. Scott's exemplary behavior at Rahway, his accomplishments in the sport of professional boxing, his willingness to accept the conditions we have set forth, and his agreement to donate 75 percent of his purse to various charities, the parole board has decided to grant prisoner number 57735 a one-week parole to engage in a light heavyweight title fight against Matthew Saad Muhammad. The fight will take place here in New Jersey, in Atlantic City. Mr. Scott will be accompanied at all times by two federal marshals.

"He will train at the facilities in Rahway State Prison. Mr. Scott will be released four days prior to the fight and return to Rahway two days after its completion."

"I've given every other deserving fighter a chance," explains Saad Muhammad. "Not fighting James Scott until now was simply a business decision. The public wants the fight, Scott has the opportunity to fight in a real arena away from that place [Rahway], so I'll give him his shot. He's earned it off his record in the ring. I know he's undefeated, but he ain't fought nobody like me before. I won't be in there to box him; I'll fight him, you know that."

Bob Arum, the promoter of the fight, can't hide his glee. "This will be a big-money fight for Matthew," he says. "James Scott's a controversial fighter. Hell, we expect protests. I mean a guy sentenced to 40 years in prison coming out to fight for a championship ... We'll sell out the place. The pushups, the undefeated record ... Who wants to see Matthew fight a boring, safety-first fighter like Eddie Gregory? And who else is out there that Matthew hasn't beaten? Scott's a great matchup—now that he's been allowed to fight outside Rahway."

Saad Muhammad and Scott have three common opponents. Saad has lost a disputed decision to Gregory, stopped Kates in six rounds, and halted Lopez in 11. Scott has won an easy decision over a lackluster Gregory, barely finished off Kates inside the distance, and won a decision against Lopez.

"You've heard it before," says Saad's trainer, the venerable Sam Solomon. "Styles make fights. None of those guys backed Scott up. None of them had a strong enough jab to keep Scott off them. The guy eats right hands, and you saw Matthew's right against Marvin Johnson."

The fight is set for March 15 at the Convention Hall in Atlantic City. Refereeing and scoring will be Mexico's Octavio Meyran. The judges will be Charlie Spina and Marty Denkin, both of the USA.

THE FIGHT

Ring announcer Ed Derian announces the fighters: "Ladies and gentlemen, tonight's main event, brought to you by Top Rank and Budweiser, the king of beers, features 15 rounds of boxing in the light heavyweight division for the WBC crown. In the blue corner, wearing the solid black trunks and boasting an undefeated record of 18 wins, no losses, and one draw, with 10 knockouts, the WBC's number-three ranked challenger, James Scott! And in the opposite corner, wearing blue trunks with white stripes, he brings a sparkling record of 24 wins, three losses, and two draws, with 16 inside-the-distance wins, Mr. Excitement, The Comeback Kid, WBC light heavyweight champion Matthew Saad Muhammad!"

ROUND 1: Saad and Scott touch gloves in ring-center. Scott probes with his jab; Muhammad blocks the punches with his gloves. Both fighters circle, feinting, but not throwing any punches. Scott sneaks a jab through. Neither is opening up. Saad's body looks bone-dry. Scott, however, remains tentative. Though he doesn't look it, Scott may have some butterflies. This is his first fight outside of Rahway in more than four years, and the greeting he received from the crowd was mixed; there are a lot of fans who don't believe he should be fighting for the title. Saad finally fires a straight right that misses. Scott counters with a hard hook to the body. He just misses up top. Saad pushes Scott away. The fighters trade lefts. Scott snaps off a jab that scores.

ROUND 2: It's Scott who initiates the action. The challenger is trying to work his way inside. Saad's pawing with that heavy jab of his, not shooting it out there. Scott comes over the jab and

(Continued on page 62)

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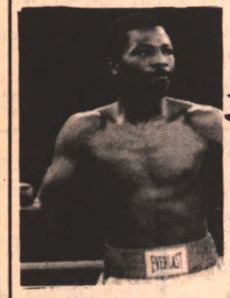

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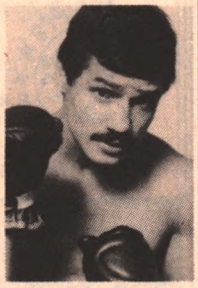

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What If ...

(Continued from page 61)

lands a solid shot to Saad's head. Saad fires back but misses, and it's Scott who scores, digging to the lean torso of the WBC champion. Scott misses with a jab. Muhammad grazes the top of Scott's head with a roundhouse right. Scott looks good. He again goes to the body, and Saad ties him up. Meyran separates the two. Saad fires a jab home, but he's not doubling up on anything. Scott lands another right to the head.

ROUND 3: The champion is living up to his reputation as a slow starter. Muhammad is moving around the ring. There's the jab, but it comes up short. Scott appears willing to mix it up now. Saad misses with a lead right, and Scott crushes him with a big left hook. Saad stumbles back and falls to the canvas. Meyran motions Scott to a neutral corner and picks up the count. Saad looks like he's okay. This isn't the first time he's been down. He's on one knee at seven and rising as Meyran reaches eight. Muhammad indicates he's ready to continue. Scott comes across the ring. Muhammad's legs look strong. Scott immediately begins to head-hunt. He's trying for a knockout. Saad wings some shots back. This is when Saad is most dangerous—when he's hurt. Scott is landing two to one, and the champion clinches. Scott misses with a wild right. Muhammad moves to his right. Scott rushes him and tries to bull him into the ropes, but Saad stands his ground. Both men are scoring on the inside.

ROUND 4: Saad is showing no effects from the knockdown. He meets Scott in the center of the ring and catches him with a hammering jab. Scott launches a hook that connects. Saad isn't moving. A wicked uppercut snaps back Scott's head. Both men wing wide shots to the body. Saad looks like he's found his rhythm. He lands a right and left to the head, though the second blow is partially blocked. Scott jabs, and jabs again. Saad misses with a big left, and Scott makes him pay. Saad comes back with a jolting jab at the bell.

ROUND 5: Scott wants to bully Saad, but can't manage to do it. Saad isn't backing up, but he stays outside and seems to have found the range with that piston-like jab. He isn't just hanging it out there like he was earlier. Scott's starting to pay every time he tries to go inside. The two trade rights. Scott moves inside and Saad ducks into him. There's a clash of heads. Both back off. There's no sign of blood. Meyran motions at both fighters to watch their heads. Saad sinks a left into Scott's midsection and lands a right uppercut. Scott backs up a step and fires off a double-hook. The action is hot. Now there's blood, but—surprise!—it's not the champion who's bleeding. Scott's mouth appears cut inside his lip.

ROUND 6: The champion continues to work the jab. Scott's trying to bob and weave his way in, but it's throwing off his offense. He's missing more now. Saad blasts a right over Scott's left hand, which the challenger has a tendency to carry low. Scott is shaken. There's another right, and Scott falls back into the ropes. A great finisher, Saad rains punches. Scott eats most of them and then slumps to the canvas but doesn't fall. It's almost as if he's decided to sit down. It's a smart move; he'll have the mandatory eight-count plus a few additional seconds to try to regroup. Scott's on his feet—and Saad's on him. Scott eats more leather. Meyran is watching closely. He's moving in to call a halt, but Scott lashes back and connects with a thudding right to the head, followed by a volley of punches. The fighters are toe-to-toe along the far ropes. Suddenly, Scott goes down again, with another big right having done the damage. Scott's hurt this time. Meyran begins to count, and Scott barely rises in time. The referee wipes off Scott's gloves and asks him if he can continue. Scott clearly indicates that he can. Meyran makes Scott walk toward him, then waves the fighters back together. Scott's in a cocoon, with both arms in front of his head. Saad digs to the body and Scott traps an arm. He's got the titlist tied up. Saad slaps with his free hand. Meyran shouts at Scott to let go. He pushes the fighters apart as the bell rings.

ROUND 7: Now it's Scott who's in reverse. He's trying to box, but the champion possesses the heavier jab. Saad's confidence is way up. He looks like he intends to walk right through his rival. Saad misses with a lunging left, but Scott is in no position to follow up. Saad shakes Scott with a heavy jab. Scott's legs still look like those of a new-born colt. He retreats to the ropes, then lands a nice right as Saad walks straight in. Saad doesn't seemed fazed. The fighters trade blows to the body. Saad again strikes with the uppercut. Scott's hands are low. He misses with a left, and Saad shakes him with a blistering straight right. A hook to the head leaves Scott lurching sideways. He crashes to the canvas for the third time. Meyran is waving it off. The fight is over at the 1:03 mark of the seventh round.

THE AFTERMATH

"A man learns inside the walls," James Scott

exclaims. "This was my first loss in what, six years? I'll come back better because of this. Jail teaches you how to cope and learn if you want to survive. I got a chance most cons will never have. What do I have to cry about? Plus, I've got two more days outside—me and my two best buddies [the federal marshals].

"[Saad Muhammad] is a good fighter. A good champion. He hit me with some good shots and I took them, but I got careless with my left hand. The people got their money's worth, I'll tell you that. I always put on a good show. I fight, you know?"

Saad Muhammad is more animated than usual—and more candid: "The truth? You know I didn't think it would be that tough a fight, and it really wasn't. You know some of them guys Scott fought, they was psyched out by fighting on the inside [of prison].

"Lopez? He's gutsy, but he's not strong enough to fight a guy like Scott. And Gregory don't like anyone who puts pressure on him. He should have never lost to a guy like James Scott. See, that was my mistake when I lost to Gregory. I boxed him. I think I outboxed him, but, well, you know, I didn't get the decision. Next time I'll take it to him."

When asked if Scott had hurt him with the knockdown punch, the WBC champion shakes his head. "No, not really. It was a good shot, but I was kinda off-balance, you know? I've been hit harder. And you saw, I got back up, no problem.

"Who's next? I don't know. Maybe Conteh again. Or Gregory, but he don't want to fight me. Ask Bob Arum and Sam [Solomon]. I'll fight anybody."

EPILOGUE

Scott returned to Rahway, his aura of invincibility shattered, almost like a bully who's bluff has been called. Already 31, his next fight against a young brawler named Jerry "The Bull" Martin proves that the edge is gone. Inadequate sparring partners, the knowledge that he could be put on the canvas, a lack of motivation after being turned down for parole—maybe all of these play a part in his loss. Whatever the reason, Martin scores two knockdowns on his way to a unanimous decision victory. Scott shows heart but not much else.

A controversial loss to, ironically enough, another ex-con, Dwight Braxton, brings the curtain down on Scott's pugilistic career.

Saad Muhammad made seven more successful defenses of the WBC light heavyweight crown. Each fight became more and more costly, with the champion leaving a little piece of himself in each of the rings in which he defended. Finally, the same fighter who ended Scott's career ended Saad's reign. Braxton finished what years of wear and tear had started, stopping Saad in 10 rounds to win the title. Saad received a rematch within a year, but Braxton, now fighting as Dwight Muhammad Qawi, made even shorter work of him, dominating and scoring a sixth-round TKO. The glory days were over. ■

LaMar Clark

(Continued from page 45)

Sain Thompson in a round the following day in Kanab, and two days later the kayo caravan pulled into Bingham, Utah.

According to Jensen, by then the newspapers were running stories that likened Clark to Palladin, the fictional character in the TV western *Have Gun, Will Travel*. In Clark's case, of course, it was gloves, not guns, but nevertheless, when they got to the high school to fight, there were seven guys lined up to take on the new tough kid in town.

"I told the doctor there, 'We'll just go with one fight and see what happens,'" said Jensen.

What happened was that Clark knocked out five of the gloveslingers in the first round and another in the second. After viewing the carnage, the seventh guy decided he had something better to do that night.

Leveling nine opponents in four days—six of them in one night, and all in a total of 12 rounds—made the KO Kid a national celebrity. *Life* ran a picture spread, calling Clark "the new Dempsey." And on the day after the Bingham massacre, Clark flew to New York City to appear on the popular prime time TV game show *To Tell The Truth*.

Two weeks later, Clark was doubling them up again. In December, he starched Cornell Butler in the first round in Cleveland, and it was five minutes before his victim remembered how to stand up. Then Alan Hedge took a nap after just 35 seconds.

Wrote Doc Greene in the *Detroit News*, "He who is hit by [Clark] will be hurt by him—considerably."

But not everyone was dusting off the throne of Sullivan in preparation for the coronation of a new heavyweight king. After the Big Bang in Bingham, as Don King might have promoted it, one Utah paper groaned that it was "too bad that boxing in our state has sunk to such depths ... Wrestlers have their masks, their whiskers, long hair, and muzzled beards. But boxing has its six straight knockouts in 7 minutes and 36 seconds."

A columnist in Los Angeles dubbed Clark "The Barnum & Bailey Blockbuster," and, in fact, even when he fought just one opponent per night, there was an unmistakable Big Top aura to the proceedings. Several of his opponents after Cleveland were actually pro wrestlers wearing boxing gloves. One of them, Ox Anderson, who claimed to have

(Continued on page 64)

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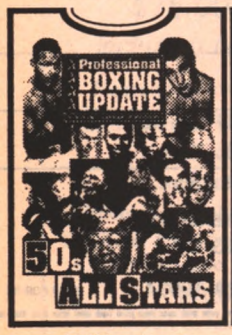

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LaMar Clark

(Continued from page 63)

boxed exhibitions with Ezzard Charles and Jersey Joe Walcott in Canada, floored Clark before the knockout artist chilled him in the second round of their January 1959 fight in Salt Lake City.

Clark earnestly defends the legitimacy of every bout. "A lot of guys say those guys were pushovers," he acknowledged. "Like heck. Those guys were tough. I got up quite a few times from getting knocked down."

He stopped 11 opponents in 1959, but had only one twin-killing, whipping Tony Bourne and Treach Phillips in a round apiece in May. By the spring of 1960, Clark was undefeated in 45 fights, and all that stood between him and a title match against Patterson was a journeyman named Bartolo Soni, whom Clark faced in Ogden, Utah.

"Cus D'Amato [Patterson's manager] and I had it all lined up to fight Patterson for the championship after the Soni fight," said Jensen. "I was going to let Gene [Fullmer] fight Jose Torres [another D'Amato fighter] for the 160-pound title on the same card."

But the Clark kayo and victory string ran out. In their nationally televised bout, Soni survived several early knockdowns and came back to stop the exhausted Utah fighter in the ninth round.

"You know, I knocked him out in the sixth round," said Clark. "The bell saved him. He was out. The referee should've stopped the fight, but they let it go on."

Jensen said Soni took such a pounding, "he never fought again. He was here four, five days [after the bout] and didn't even remember fighting."

But since it was Soni's hand raised at the end, the Patterson-Clark title bout was derailed. Clark remains disconsolate about that.

"I wanted to fight Floyd Patterson so bad," he said. "He was close to my size and used that peek-aboo style, and he had a glass jaw. I thought, *If I get him, it's curtains.*"

Instead, after Soni he got Pete Rademacher, who, in his first pro start, had lost a title fight to Patterson in 1957. But it wasn't the same hell-for-leather Clark who had sailed into opponents at the opening bell because he hadn't been sure how many more were waiting to go up against him that night. The Soni fight, said Jensen, "kind of changed the way LaMar fought. Then it became a guessing game with him as to whether he should go all-out or wait."

This time he waited, and Rademacher stopped Clark in the 10th round. Suddenly, The KO Kid had become The Kayoed Kid, with two straight knockout defeats.

After reversing that trend with an early kayo win in 1961, Clark went to Louisville, Kentucky to fight Cassius Clay in April. It was the sixth pro bout for the fighter who would change his name to Muhammad Ali after winning the title in 1964.

"Some of those taller guys, you can corner 'em and get to 'em," said Clark of his hopes for the Clay fight. They were shattered when he stepped into the ring at Freedom Hall that night.

"Here our rings were 18-by-18 or 20-by-20 feet, but when I went there, the ring seemed about 25-by-25," he said. "I thought it was a dance hall."

There were other problems, too.

"I didn't get [to Louisville] until the day of the fight," Jensen recalled. "LaMar was acting funny. Then somebody said, 'Boy, you ought to have been here yesterday. You'd never see a better fight.' They had Jimmy Ellis (who was turning pro on the Clay-Clark card) in with LaMar. He busted Clark's nose. When he went and fought Clay, with that jab of his and [Clark's] busted nose, [the blood] just spurted all over."

The fight went two rounds, and this time it was as if there were six guys in with him at the same time, and every one a future hall of famer. It was the last knockout, for or against, of The KO Kid's career; Clark never fought again.

He's completely retired now. While boxing, Clark worked on Jensen's mink ranch. ("You know what I liked about mink? Breaking their necks.") Then he was a mine gang boss at the famous Kennecott hole in the ground. Clark credits wife Brenda, to whom he has been married for 34 years, and daughters Nicole, Cherese, and Theresa for his abundantly fulfilled life.

He always tried his hardest to win, whether against six guys in Bingham, a future legend in Louisville, or three nieces in a game of jecks. The man his high school football coach called "undoubtedly one of the most competitive athletes in the history of Utah" relishes the memory of that last contest as much as the others.

"They just *knew* they could beat me," Clark recalled of his nieces. "They said, 'C'mon, Uncle LaMar, you got to play us because we figure we got a chance to beat you.'

"I slaughtered 'em! Then they wanted to go outside and play hopscotch. I hadn't done it since I was a boy, but I waxed 'em at that, too!" ■

Pete Ehrmann, a frequent contributor to **THE RING,** ***is based in West Allis, Wisconsin.***

BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Don Scott

We boxing collectors find that our hobby often intersects with others. That usually requires that we learn a bit about the other hobby so that we don't err in understanding the relative worth of the pieces we seek. No corner of our hobby is getting as much attention these days as is the collecting of boxing postcards. These have been very reasonable until the last year or so. Cards previously selling for $10-20 have been going for two to three times that much. To understand postcards, we must consult the sources that postcard collectors use.

Postcards are great collectibles. They must be; postcard collecting is a hobby far larger than boxing memorabilia, and there are at least two newsletter/magazines published, both of which are far bigger than my *Boxing Collectors' News*.

There are lots of postcards from the early part of this century that contain images of fighters. There are also lots of postcards that were sold as souvenirs of fights from pre-1900 until today. There are also sets of postcards produced in several different countries. But where to start?

Since many images have been reproduced through the years, dating these cards is very important. The process can be complicated, and one must often apply the knowledge of how postcards were made through the years. Pick up a copy of *The Postcard Price Guide* by J.L. Mashburn, $16.95 at bookstores, or write Colonial House, PO Box 609, Enka, NC 28728 for the particulars on dating early cards.

The most sought-after postcards are real-photo postcards. Many of these were produced by local photographers and have their name and the subject scratched into, or written onto, the negative, as opposed to a caption. Some were mass-produced. One of the most famous of these photographers was San Francisco's Charles Dana. He photographed many of the fights between 1900 and 1910, including the Johnson-Jeffries fight. There were also quite a few souvenir postcards of that fight. My favorites are cards with images of two chickens fighting. Johnson's face appears on the black chicken and Jeffries' face on the white bird. Playing the race card in boxing was common in 1910, and it was done openly.

There are also British boxing postcards. My favorite series is the Windsor House Boxing Series, which must have been produced about 1910-1912. The images are particularly striking.

There was a series of postcards made, often real-photo cards, for fights other than Johnson-Jeffries. These can be great finds, but the postcards draw pretty good prices these days. There were a number of such postcards made for Dempsey-Carpentier, Ketchel-Papke, Wolgast-Moran, Beckett-Carpentier, and many other fights. In addition, I've seen stray cards for such fights as Jack Johnson-Al Kaufman, Dempsey-Willard, Johnson-Willard. The production of these cards must have been fairly widespread after 1907, even if the number of cards produced was pretty low. Rare real-photo cards run from $30-100.

Postcards of individual fighters have been seen through the years, too. From 1921 through the '60s, the Exhibit Supply Company of Chicago put out cards that were postcard-sized. But most of these cards were blank-backed. In the '20s, however, some cards were made with postcard backs. If you're bidding on a postcard at an auction, you should find out if it is an Exhibit card. Exhibits are more common than most fight postcards of the day.

There are, of course, restaurant postcards. Seems almost every champion tries to open a restaurant when he retires. I have seen more than 10 different cards for Jack Dempsey's restaurants. Another restaurant postcard commonly found is for Lew Tendler's place. These run from $5-20, but a rare postcard may go for $40 or more.

So do your homework, check out the references in the aforementioned book, and start to shop those flea markets for bargains. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of ***Boxing Collectors' News*** *and may be contacted through* THE RING.

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of May 1995, the WBC ratings were compiled as of June 1995, and the IBF ratings were compiled as of July 1995.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oliver McCall (USA)	C	–	–
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	–
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	6	8
Joe Hipp (USA)	3	4	3
Tony Tucker (USA)	4	3	9
Evander Holyfield (USA)	5	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	6	5	7
Frank Bruno (GB)	7	–	–
Francois Botha (SA)	8	2	1
Alexandr Zolkin (RUS)	9	11	11
Peter McNeeley (USA)	10	7	–
Lionel Butler (USA)	13	8	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	12	9	–
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	21	10	–
Axel Schulz (GER)	–	–	2
Buster Mathis (USA)	20	–	4
Corrie Sanders (SA)	16	–	5
Andrew Golota (POL)	17	12	6
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Robert Daniels (USA)	1	5	12
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	4	8
Patrice Aouissi (FRA)	3	6	4
Arthur Williams (USA)	4	–	–
Mark Randazzo (USA)	5	–	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	6	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	7	10	7
Torsten May (GER)	8	–	3
David Izeqwire (NIG)	9	–	10
Terry Dunstan (GB)	10	–	–
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	–	1	1
Adolpho Washington (USA)	11	2	2
Carl Thompson (GB)	–	3	–
Przemyslaw Saleta (POL)	–	7	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	13	8	–
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	14	9	–
Egerton Marcus (USA)	–	–	5
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	6
John Andrade (USA)	29	–	9

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike McCallum (USA)	C	–	7
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	1	1	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	2	3	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	3	–	3
Ginger Tshabalala (SA)	4	–	8
Merqui Sosa (DR)	5	–	5
Jose Gomez (BRA)	6	2	–
James Toney (USA)	7	–	–
Noel Magee (GB)	8	12	–
Phillipe Michael (FRA)	9	10	12
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	10	–	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	4	1
Lou Del Valle (USA)	24	5	–
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	16	6	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	–	7	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	8	9
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	9	–
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	–	–	2
William Guthrie (USA)	–	–	4
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	–	6
Greg Everett (USA)	–	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Thulane Malinga (SA)	1	7	4
Tim Littles (USA)	2	1	3
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	3	–	–
Steve Little (USA)	4	–	11
Michael Nunn (USA)	5	–	–
Chris Eubank (GB)	6	–	5
Luciano Torres (BRA)	7	3	–
Cecil McKenzie (USA)	8	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	9	–	–
Tony Byrd (USA)	10	8	9
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	27	2	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	4	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	5	–
Graziano Rocchigiani (GER)	–	6	–
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	12	9	–
Bryant Brannon (USA)	21	10	2
Tony Thornton (USA)	16	11	1
Eric Lucas (CAN)	–	–	6
Jean-Claude M'blye (FRA)	20	–	7
Reginaldo Andrade (BRA)	23	–	8
Daniel Perez (USA)	15	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (USA)	C	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Richie Woodhall (GB)	1	7	5
Quincy Taylor (USA)	2	5	2
Joe Lipsey (USA)	3	8	1
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	4	–	–
Neville Brown (GB)	5	–	7
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	6	–	–
Silvio Branco (ITA)	7	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	8	6	4
Reggie Johnson (USA)	9	1	–
Otis Grant (CAN)	10	–	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	2	–
William Joppy (USA)	20	3	3
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	–	4	12
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	24	9	6
Zdravo Kostic (SERB)	14	10	–
Howard Davis (USA)	–	–	8
Juan Viloria (COL)	–	–	9
Robert Allen (USA)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luis Santana (DR)	C	–	–
Vacant	–	C	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	C
Terry Norris (USA)	1	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	2	6	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	3	3	11
Bronco McKart (USA)	4	8	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	5	5	6
Winky Wright (USA)	6	4	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	7	–	1
Godfrey Nyakana (UGA)	8	–	–
Buddy McGirt (USA)	9	7	4
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	10	9	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	1	–
Julio Cesar Green (USA)	–	2	8
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	10	–
Keith Holmes (USA)	24	–	2
Raul Marquez (USA)	17	–	3
Darrin Morris (USA)	–	11	5
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	7
Hernan Mena (COL)	–	–	9
Giovanni Pretorious (SA)	30	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Gary Jacobs (GB)	1	2	4
Larry Barnes (USA)	2	4	1
Andrew Murray (GUY)	3	1	2
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	6	3
Valery Kayumba (FRA)	5	9	7
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	6	5	–
Oba Carr (USA)	7	7	6
Derrell Coley (USA)	8	3	8
Lonnie Smith (USA)	9	–	–
Vincent Phillips (USA)	10	–	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	27	8	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	10	5
Edwin Murillo (PAN)	26	–	9
James Hughes (USA)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	C	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	C
David Kamau (USA)	1	3	2
Ian Bergman (SA)	2	6	3
Hugo Pineda (COL)	3	4	1
Juan Coggi (ARG)	4	2	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	5	1	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	6	9	4
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	7	–	–
Ross Hale (GB)	8	11	11
Giovanni Parisi (ITA)	9	–	–
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	10	–	–
Freddie Ladd (USA)	–	5	5
George Scott (USA)	–	7	–
Dingaan Thobela (SA)	–	8	–
Jose Barbosa (VEN)	–	10	–
Jake Rodriguez (USA)	18	–	6
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	7
Ray Oliveira (USA)	19	–	8
Darryll Tyson (USA)	15	–	9
Giuseppe Sauli (ITA)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Arnubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	–	–	C
Miguel Julio (COL)	1	1	1
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	2	–	8
Alexander Johnson (USA)	3	3	5
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	4	–	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	5	–	–
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	6	–	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	7	4	2
Steve Johnston (USA)	8	–	6
Ivan Robinson (USA)	9	12	4
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	10	–	7
Adrianus Taroreh (INDO)	20	2	–
Dacheed Lawal (DEN)	19	5	–
Tracy Camache (USA)	25	6	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	18	7	–
Dominio Rivera (PR)	–	8	–
Dindo Canoy (PHIL)	–	9	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	21	10	9
Glenn Lark (USA)	–	–	3
Eduardo Molina (COL)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	C	–	–
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
Al Hopson (USA)	–	4	C
Ammah Nelson (GHA)	1	3	5
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	2	5	12
Arturo Gatti (USA)	3	–	1
Jose James Leija (USA)	4	6	7
Rich Johnson (TRIN)	5	12	–
Ibrahim Yoma (FRA)	6	8	–
Jung Soo Choi (KOR)	7	2	–
Harold Warren (USA)	8	–	–
Alvin Hernandez (USA)	9	–	–
Joel Liberatore (USA)	10	–	–
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	–	1	–
Floyd Havard (GB)	15	7	–
Valdir Nicola (BRA)	–	9	–
Ismael Lifa (FRA)	13	10	6
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	–	2
Jose Rangel (COL)	–	–	3
Artem Sinitsin (RUS)	12	–	4
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	8
Paul Samardin (AUSTRL)	20	–	9
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	17	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Victor Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Kevin Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Oscar Soto (MEX)	1	11	–
Calvin Kelley (USA)	2	5	3
Victor Beleno (COL)	3	3	1
Jesus Badillo (PR)	4	2	6
Tracy Patterson (USA)	5	–	–
Victor Lizarraga (USA)	6	–	5
Khalil Labdouni (FRA)	7	10	–
Julio Rios (ARG)	8	–	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	9	–	9
Yoshi Harada (JAP)	10	–	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	11	1	2
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	–	4	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	15	6	8
Luis Mendoza (COL)	–	7	–
Nobutoshi Hiranaka (JAP)	–	8	–
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	17	9	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	4
Francisco Segura (USA)	21	12	7
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Jesus Salud (USA)	1	7	8
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	–	–
Naseem Hamed (GB)	3	5	3
Julio Gervacio (DR)	4	–	–
Erik Morales (MEX)	5	–	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	6	–	–
Jesse Benavides (USA)	7	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	8	2	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	9	6	–
Junior Jones (USA)	10	8	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	23	1	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	–	3	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	4	4
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	–	9	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	–	10	–
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	17	–	2
Anton Gilmore (SA)	19	–	5
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	21	–	6
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	7
Maui Diaz (USA)	12	–	9
Daniel Alicer (PR)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	C	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	7	1
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	6	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	3	1	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	4	–	7
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	5	–	–
Roberto Moran (ARG)	6	–	–
John Armour (GB)	7	11	3
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	8	–	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	9	12	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	10	–	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	2	–
Jorge Julio (COL)	12	3	12
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	4	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	5	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	20	8	–
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	9	8
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	24	10	–
Ancee Gedeon (USA)	–	–	2
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	4
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	5
Paul Ayala (USA)	25	–	6
Sam Stewart (USA)	–	–	9
Sergio Reyes (USA)	18	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	C	–
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	C
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	1	5	6
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	2	3	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	3	–	–
Luis Bolano (COL)	4	–	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	5	–	–
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	6	–	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	7	–	5
David Griman (VEN)	8	2	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	9	6	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	10	–	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	–	1	–
Julio Gamboa Blanco (NIC)	16	4	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	7	–
Veeraphol Soharpom (THAI)	–	8	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	14	9	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	13	10	–
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Ricky Matulessi (INDO)	–	–	3
Jose Diaz (USA)	25	–	4
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	21	–	7
Orlando Tobon (COL)	–	–	8
Domingo Sosa (DR)	19	–	9
Cesar Singo (EQU)	–	–	10

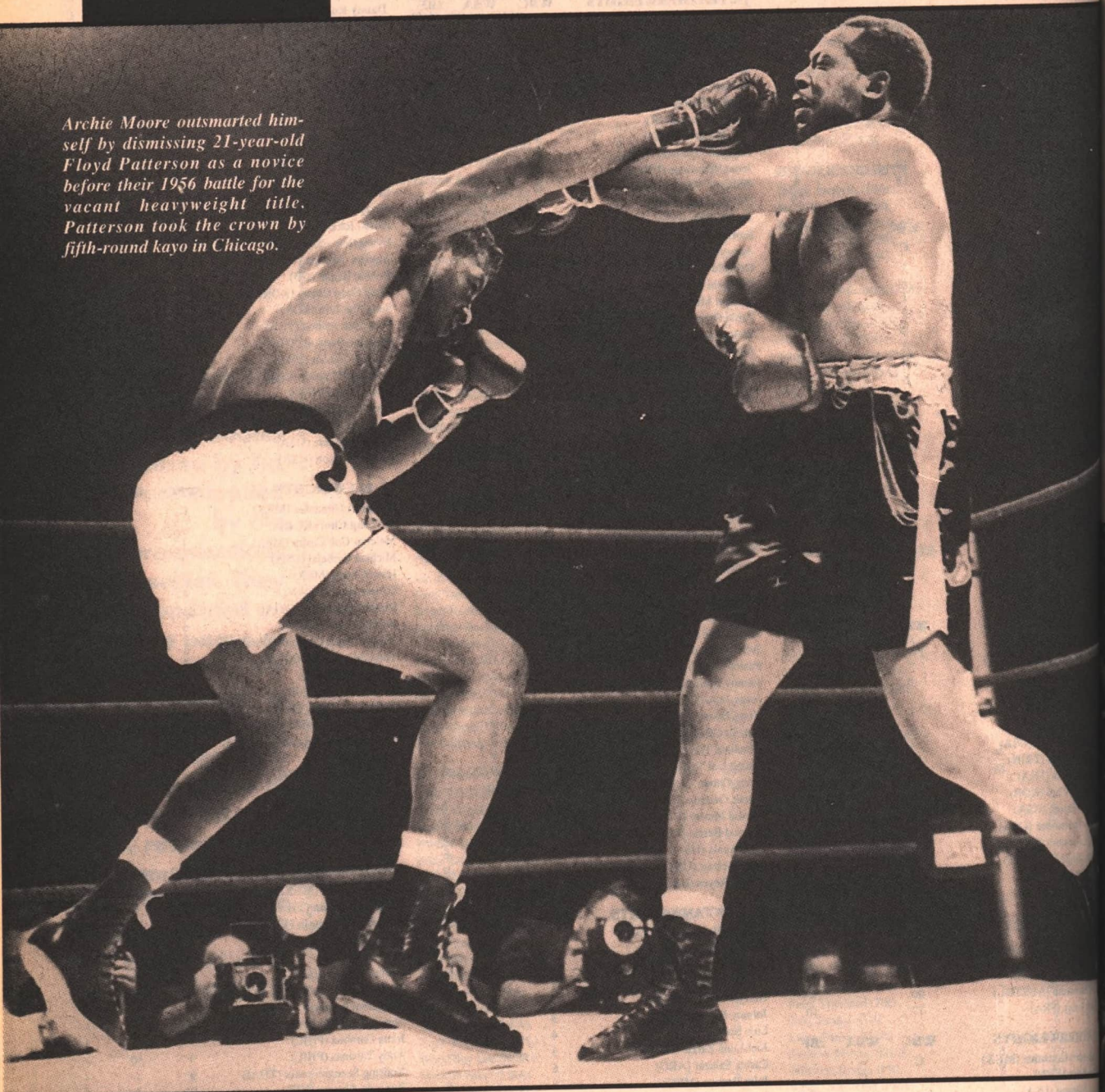
FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
San Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	C
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	1	–	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	2	–	3
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	3	–	11
Hugo Soto (ARG)	4	–	–
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	5	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	6	10	–
Chokchai 3-K Battery (THAI)	7	4	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	8	–	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	9	–	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	10	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	1	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	2	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	24	3	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	5	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	6	–
Robbie Regan (GB)	–	7	12
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	–	8	–
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	–	9	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	17	–	1
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	–	–	2
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	–	4
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	11	–	5
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	6
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	7
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	–	8
Manuel Herrera (USA)	–	–	9
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Chiquita Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	C
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	5	3
Michael Carbajal (USA)	2	2	5
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	7	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	4	1	2
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	5	–	8
Javier Varguez (MEX)	6	–	–
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	7	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	8	–	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	9	6	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	10	3	4
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	11	4	–
Puma Kanehira (MEX)	–	8	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	9	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	10	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	1
Yani Malhendo (INDO)	–	–	6
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	23	–	7
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	9
James Wanene (KEN)	24	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	3	11
Rocky Lin (JAP)	2	–	9
Kermin Guardia (COL)	3	2	–
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	4	9	2
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	5	6	–
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	6	7	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	7	12	3
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	8	10	–
Yodsing Saengmorokot (THAI)	9	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	10	1	1
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	–	4	–
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	–	5	–
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	11	8	–
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	–	–	4
Surachai Saengmorokot (THAI)	–	–	5
Jack Russell (AUSTRL)	21	–	6
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	7
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	8
Roger Espanola (PHIL)	14	–	10

RING CLASSIC

SMART ONES OFTEN GET OUTSMARTED



Archie Moore outsmarted himself by dismissing 21-year-old Floyd Patterson as a novice before their 1956 battle for the vacant heavyweight title. Patterson took the crown by fifth-round kayo in Chicago.

From THE RING, June 1961

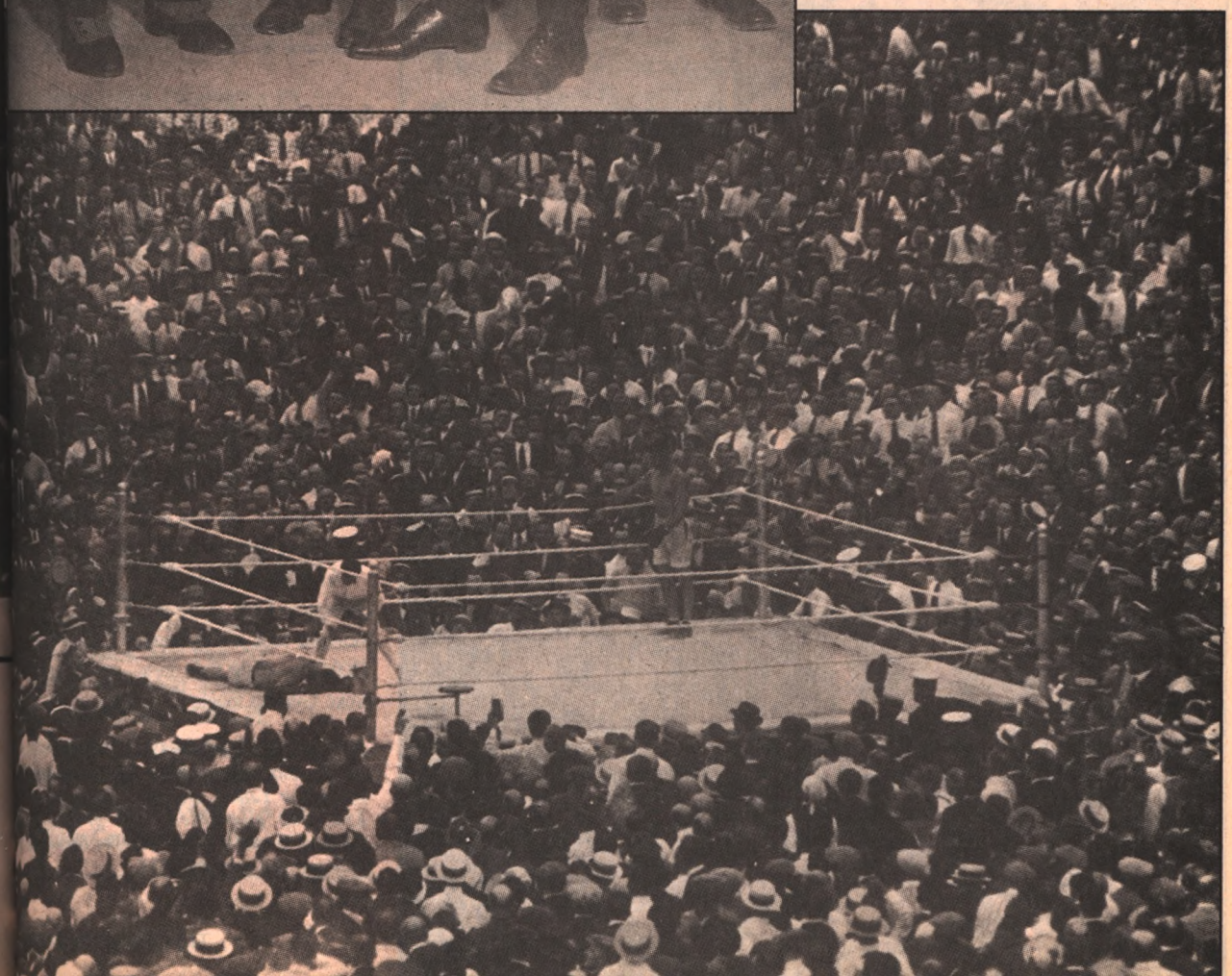
Fighters, Managers, Promoters Make Boo-Boos

By Al Buck

For what it is worth, Archie Moore will have the edge that comes from experience when he defends the world light heavyweight title against Giulio Rinaldi, Italian challenger, in historic Madison Square Garden. The champion has the wisdom that comes only with age. He is smart, so smart that at times he has outsmarted himself.

Take Moore's two attempts to win the world heavyweight crown, something no light heavyweight king has accomplished. He assumed Rocky Marciano was just another heavyweight, and he was convinced he could defeat any heavyweight. Moore took life easy in his North Adams, Massachusetts, training camp. His sparring sessions were brief. He found time to give a concert with a band led by his friend, Lucky Thompson, and he raced around town in a flashy sports car.

Left: French hero Georges Carpentier and heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey flank promoter Tex Rickard before their famous 1921 title fight. (Ring announcer Joe Humphries is on the far right.) Below: When the record-setting bout drew a gate of $1,789,238, Dempsey, who had signed for a guaranteed $300,000, cost himself $295,000. At least he managed to keep the crown by fourth-round kayo.



On one point Moore was right: Marciano could be hit and hurt. A right had dropped the heavyweight champion, but The Rock got up. It was then that Moore learned, or should have, that at 188 pounds, he was not in condition. He took the count in the ninth round.

It was the same story with Floyd Patterson. Moore regarded him as a novice. Again he wasn't ready for his great opportunity. He scaled 187½, and this time was knocked out in the fifth round.

How smart did he have to be to outsmart himself? Twice as smart, at least.

Moore was just a fat old man when he went to Rome to box Rinaldi, a youthful nobody, last October. Giulio had him in trouble and took down the decision. The upset led to the upcoming championship fight. Once they are in the Garden ring, Rinaldi may discover that at 175 pounds, the light heavyweight limit, Ancient Archie is one of the world's greatest fighters.

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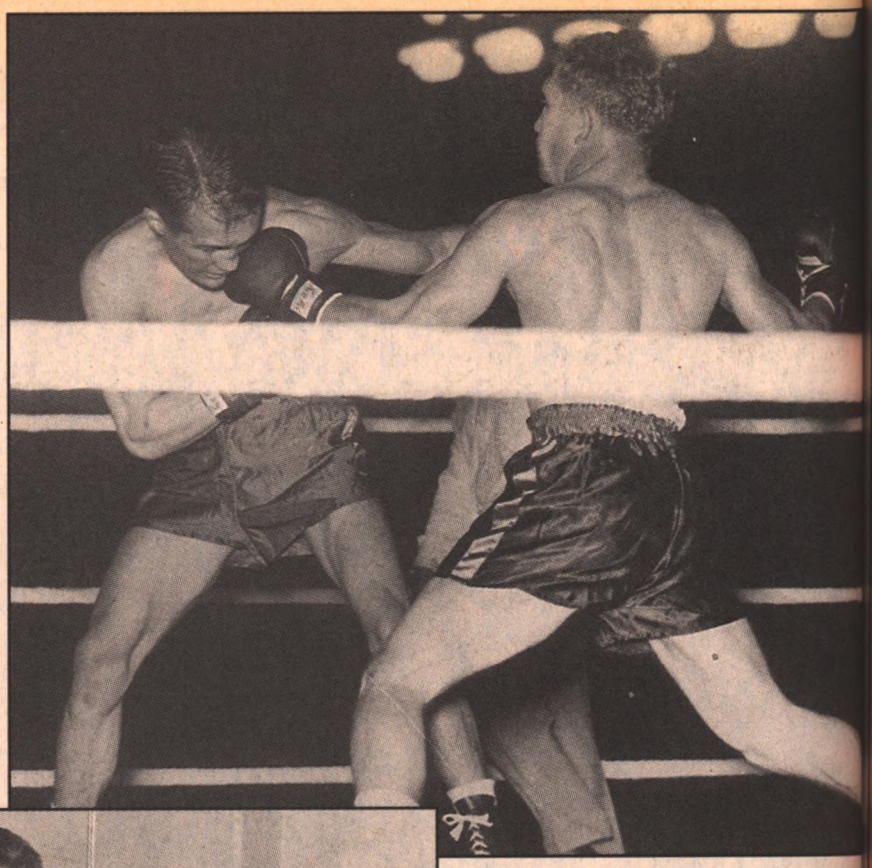
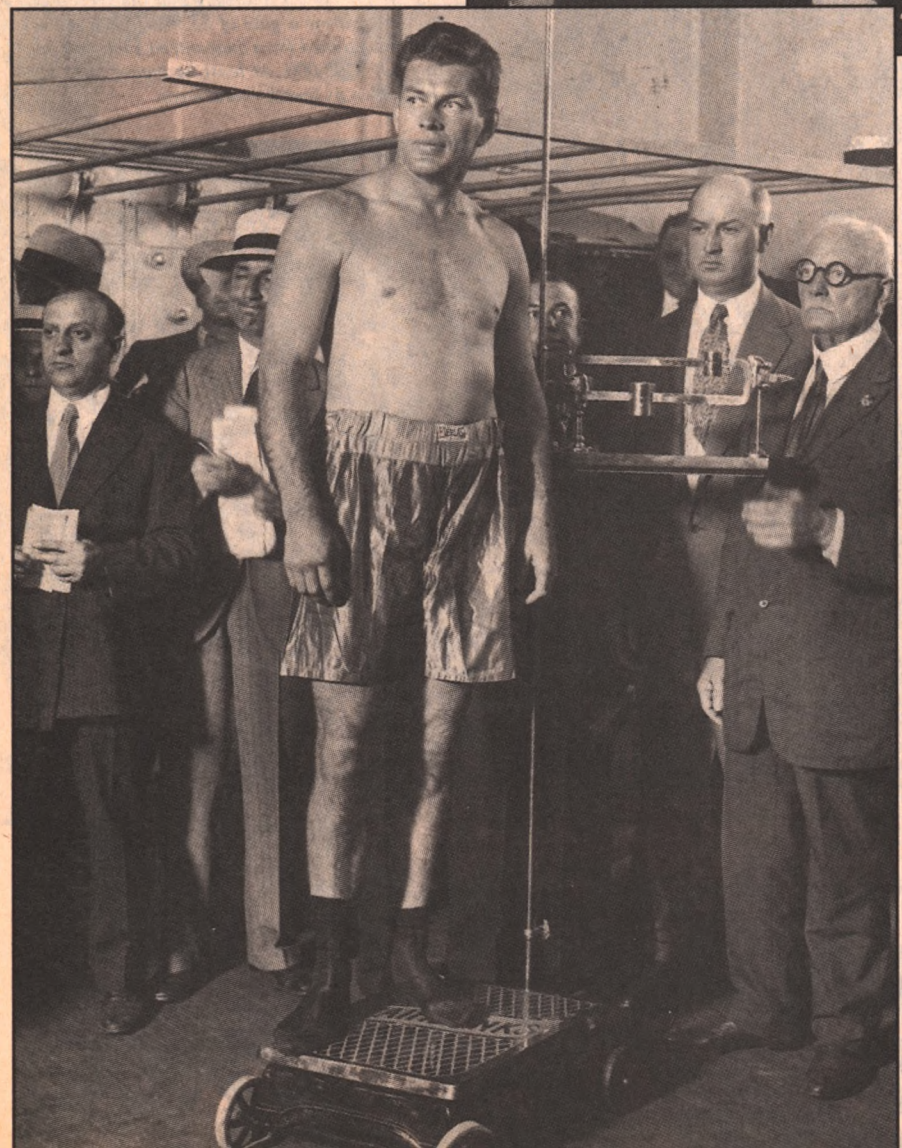
Fighters are not the only ones who outsmart themselves. Jack Kearns is regarded as one of



Welterweight champion Fritzie Zivic (left) did virtually no training for his 1941 defense against the lightly regarded Freddie "Red" Cochrane. It was a major mistake; Cochrane easily won the title by 15-round decision.



the all-time smart managers, and justly so. Yet Kearns has overreached himself and on occasion made a bad deal.

The $1-million gate was born with the Jack Dempsey-Georges Carpentier "Battle Of The Century." It was fought in 1921 at Boyle's Thirty Acres in Jersey City, and grossed $1,789,238. Kearns, as Dempsey's manager, insisted on a flat guarantee of $300,000. It seemed a good deal at the time. Carpentier, the challenger, was guaranteed $200,000. Afterward, Tex Rickard, the promoter, called it the best deal of his life. If Dempsey had signed for 35 percent, the first offer Tex had made, he would have been paid $595,000.

Another Kearns error was taking the Dempsey-Tom Gibbons fight to Shelby, Montana. Jack was guaranteed $300,000. He got $200,000—all the fight drew—and the town went broke. Gibbons fought for nothing, or only for the

Heavyweight champion Gene Tunney weighs in for his final fight, a 1928 defense against Tom Heeney at Yankee Stadium. Tunney secured a $525,000 guarantee from promoter Tex Rickard. It was a great deal for Tunney as the bout grossed only $691,014.

nce at the title he thought he could win. Nevertheless, Kearns and Dempsey together re one of the outstanding manager-fighter ms in boxing. The Doctor, as boxing people l Kearns, did magnificent jobs with Mickey lker and Joey Maxim. He has also had a nd in making Moore a worldwide attraction.

When a promoter outsmarts himself, it usually shows in red ink. Rickard guaranteed Gene Tunney $525,000 for what was his last defense of the heavyweight title, against Tom Heeney. The gate was $691,014, and for once Tex took a big loss.

Tunney never outsmarted himself. He made his million fighting, and on retiring undefeated resisted the inevitable pressure to come back. He didn't make the mistake James J. Jeffries did, when, after being out of the ring six years, he was lured out of retirement to fight Jack Johnson.

Joe Louis outsmarted himself in the same

THE RING RATINGS, *June 1961*

Davey Moore

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Floyd Patterson, Rockville Centre, NY

1. **Sonny Liston**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Eddie Machen**, Portland, OR
3. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
4. **Henry Cooper**, England
5. **Ingemar Johansson**, Sweden
6. **George Chuvalo**, Canada
7. **Alex Miteff**, Argentina
8. **Mike DeJohn**, Syracuse, NY
9. **Tom McNeeley**, Arlington, MA
10. **Robert Cleroux**, Canada

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Archie Moore, San Diego, CA

1. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Giulio Rinaldi**, Italy
3. **Erich Schoppner**, Germany
4. **Doug Jones**, New York, NY
5. **Chic Calderwood**, Scotland
6. **Willie Pastrano**, Miami, FL
7. **Von Clay**, Philadelphia, PA
8. **Bobo Olson**, Portland, OR
9. **Kirk Barrow**, Spokane, WA
10. **Eddie Cotton**, Seattle, WA

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Paul Pender, Brookline, MA

1. **Gene Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
2. **Dick Tiger**, Nigeria
3. **Ray Robinson**, New York, NY
4. **Terry Downes**, England
5. **Gustav Scholz**, Germany
6. **Florentino Fernandez**, Cuba
7. **Hank Casey**, Richmond, CA
8. **Joey Giambra**, Buffalo, NY
9. **Joey Giardello**, Philadelphia, PA
10. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Emile Griffith, New York, NY

1. **Benny Paret**, Cuba
2. **Luis Rodriguez**, Cuba
3. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Jorge Fernandez**, Argentina
5. **Federico Thompson**, Argentina
6. **Duilio Loi**, Italy
7. **Gaspar Ortega**, Mexico
8. **Brian Curvis**, Wales
9. **Ted Wright**, Detroit, MI
10. **Guy Sumlin**, Pritchard, AL

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Brown, Baton Rouge, LA

1. **Dave Charnley**, England
2. **Carlos Ortiz**, New York, NY
3. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
4. **Len Matthews**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Doug Valliant**, Cuba
6. **Flash Elorde**, Philippines
7. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
8. **Giordano Campari**, Italy
9. **Solomon Boysaw**, Cleveland, OH
10. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Davey Moore, Springfield, OH

1. **Gracieux Lamperti**, France
2. **Sugar Ramos**, Cuba
3. **Rafiu King**, Nigeria
4. **Sergio Caprari**, Italy
5. **Ray Nobile**, Italy
6. **Terry Spinks**, England
7. **Juan Ramirez**, Mexico
8. **Howard Winstone**, Wales
9. **Floyd Robertson**, Ghana
10. **Danny Valdez**, Los Angeles, CA

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Eder Jofre, Brazil

1. **Alphonse Halimi**, France
2. **Freddie Gilroy**, Ireland
3. **Joe Medel**, Mexico
4. **Piero Rollo**, Italy
5. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
6. **Pierre Cossmyns**, Belgium
7. **Kenji Yonekura**, Japan
8. **Edmundo Esparza**, Mexico
9. **Enrique Hitchman**, Cuba
10. **Carlos Hernandez**, Mexico

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Pone Kingpetch, Thailand

1. **Sadao Yaoita**, Japan
2. **Johnny Caldwell**, Ireland
3. **Mimun Ben Ali**, Spain
4. **Ramon Arias**, Venezuela
5. **Pascual Perez**, Argentina
6. **Mitsunori Seki**, Japan
7. **Risto Lukkonen**, Finland
8. **Hiram Bacallao**, Cuba
9. **Ernesto Barrera**, Mexico
10. **Carlos Rodriguez**, Argentina

way when he came back to fight Ezzard Charles. He at least went the 15 rounds to lose the decision. Jeffries was knocked out. Both Bomber Joe and Jeff would have been better off in every way had they stayed retired. Rocky Marciano, if he ever thinks of returning to the ring, should profit from their fate.

Marciano may have outsmarted himself by retiring when he did. He had only one challenger, Floyd Patterson, at the time. Later events have proven Patterson is vulnerable to a right hand. He doesn't take it too well, or so his fights with Ingemar Johansson seem to prove, and Marciano, always in condition, was a much more rugged warrior than the Swede.

In the first Johansson fight, Patterson outsmarted himself. He underrated Ingemar. In the second, Johansson did the same thing. Ingo may have permitted himself to be outsmarted when he offered no objection to the automatic eight-count in the third fight in Miami Beach.

In announcing the eight-count would be in effect, the local commission added, " ... if neither fighter objects." That was the time for Johansson to speak up. He was his own manager, and Edwin Alhquist, the Swedish promoter, was his only adviser. Johansson said nothing.

What would have happened had Patterson not received counts of eight after each of the two knockouts in round one? Would it have been the first fight all over again, with Ingo piling knockdown on knockdown until the referee had to stop it? No one will ever know.

***

If Cus D'Amato, Patterson's manager, stops to think, he must realize he has outsmarted himself not once, but several times. His feud with the now-defunct International Boxing Club resulted in all kinds of complications. It led to hearings and investigations, suspensions and fines, and now Patterson says he will make all future decisions.

For the Patterson-Brian London fight, first scheduled for Las Vegas, D'Amato brought in Cecil Rhodes, a man unknown to boxing. Before the fight took place, Rhodes withdrew, charging the promotion $50,000 for his services. There was no profit when Floyd did catch up to the Englishman in Indianapolis.

D'Amato outsmarted himself in attempting to control Johansson by insisting he take a 10 percent American manager. He did it again right after the third Johansson fight when he declared Patterson would never again fight for Feature Sports Inc.

About the time Cus was sounding off Patterson was announcing his next title defense would be made for Feature Sports, and it is assumed Henry Cooper, the Englishman, will be the challenger.

D'Amato justifies his methods on the ground that Patterson has become a rich young man under his management. This is true, but at the same time Floyd has not received the recognition due a heavyweight champion.

***

Sugar Ray Robinson, who prides himself on being a good businessman, has often outsmarted himself. There was his reluctance to defend the world middleweight title until a challenge filed by Carmen Basilio forced the New York commission to move to take away the title. Sugar Ray countered by coming up with a certified check for $250,000, signed by Irving Kahn TelePrompter president, for a Basilio fight.

The New York commission didn't lift the title, but Basilio flatly rejected the offer to fight in Philadelphia.

Sugar Ray had to fight somebody, and he picked Paul Pender, a fighter with fragile hands. About all the training Robinson did was for publicity purposes. He even worked out briefly in the window of a Boston department store.

Pender proved better than the champ had anticipated. He stayed with him and came on in the last three rounds as Sugar Ray tired. The decision, though split, went to Pender. He was and still is, world middleweight champion.

A common pitfall is underestimating an opponent. Federico Thompson, Argentine welterweight, was a victim when he fought Ted Wright at the St. Nicholas Arena in New York City recently. Wright was a substitute and Thompson was the number-one contender at the time. Federico couldn't have trained much. He found the pace too fast and lost the last five rounds. Wright, hailing from Detroit, but employed at the Apollo Theater in New York as an usher, gained the verdict. The Fighting Usher won going away. It wasn't even close.

Back in 1942, Fritzie Zivic outsmarted himself out of the welterweight title. He had little regard for Freddie (Red) Cochrane, the challenger. Fritzie did no training, and while the

Instead of meeting Carmen Basilio in a lucrative and highly anticipated rubber match, middleweight champion Sugar Ray Robinson fought the relatively unheralded Paul Pender and lost the title by split 15-round decision in 1960. Robinson hardly trained for the fight, and it showed.

fight took place in Cochrane territory (Newark, New Jersey), it wasn't a hometown decision. Cochrane won going away.

Bad luck was more of a factor in George Chip's loss of the middleweight crown. Joe Chip, the champion's brother, was to have fought Al McCoy in Brooklyn. Because of illness, Joe couldn't keep the engagement, and as it was a 10-round no-decision fight, brother George substituted.

In the first round, McCoy, a southpaw, landed on Joe's chin to win the middleweight title.

***

Fighters can outsmart themselves in the ring, too. Take the second Robinson-Gene Fullmer fight, the one in Chicago. Gene had the title then and things were going well. With complete disregard of Sugar Ray's punching power, he led with his chin. He rushed in hands down—and right into Robinson's finishing punch. Sugar Ray was mid-

When Joe Louis and Max Baer squared off in 1935, the bout was nowhere near as big as it would have been had either heavyweight held the world title. In a shocking upset, Baer had lost the crown three months earlier to Jim Braddock. Louis issued Baer his second consecutive loss, stopping boxing's clown prince in four rounds.

dleweight champ again.

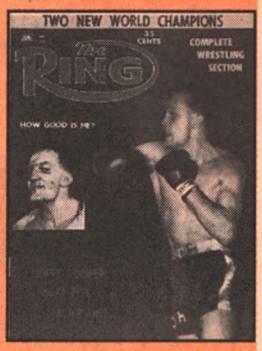
Billy Conn was just as reckless in his first fight with Joe Louis. He had the heavyweight champion outpointed at the end of 12 rounds. Then, in the 13th, he gambled on a knockout. Louis' counter beat the challenger's right, and it was all over. Conn had outsmarted himself.

Even Mike Jacobs, one of the most able promoters, outsmarted himself. In 1935, Uncle Mike had Louis, and was battling to get into Madison Square Garden. Max Baer was champion, and was committed to make his first defense for the Garden. The proposed challenger was James J. Braddock, but few regarded him a serious threat.

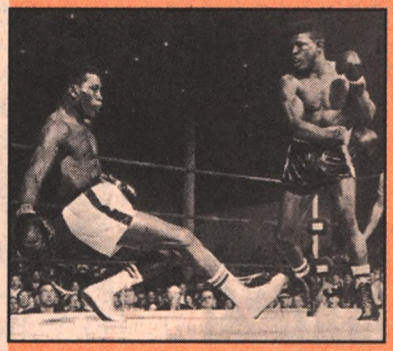
Jacobs figured Baer would knock out Braddock and have the title free and clear. Then he would match Baer with Louis. It was a neat plan, but Braddock spoiled it by outpointing Baer. When Louis and Baer did fight later that summer, neither was champion.

It came out all right in the end, but two years were to elapse before Louis got his chance to win the crown from Braddock. For once at least, Jacobs had outsmarted himself. ■

THE RING, June 1961



The Cover: British and British Empire champion Henry Cooper appears to be next in line to challenge world heavyweight titlist Floyd Patterson. In the cover story, Nat Fleischer asks: "How Good Is Cooper?" As it would turn out, Patterson would never meet the Englishman, instead kayoing Boston's Tom McNeeley in his last successful defense.



New Welter King: The first Virgin Islander to win a world title, Emile Griffith scored a mild surprise at the Miami Beach Convention Hall, stopping defending welterweight champion Benny Paret in the 13th round. It was the first kayo defeat of Paret's career. Tom Ephrem reports from ringside.

A Champ's Goodbye: As Lew Eskin reports, the result, *Bunny Grant KO 10 Lauro Salas*, didn't tell a whole lot. Former world lightweight champion Salas deserved more than one line of agate type. In the Mexican's last pro bout, he traveled to Kingston, Jamaica, and took on Grant in the up-and-comer's backyard. Salas, 32, retired with a career mark of 85-52-13 (41) with 1 no-decision.

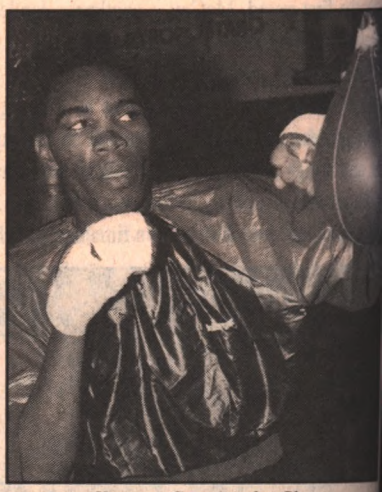
A Classic Ring Hero: Artist and author Ted Carroll looks back at lightweight legend Joe Gans, considered by many to be the greatest 135-pounder in history. Gans, a native of Baltimore, fought from 1891 to 1909, then died in 1910 at age 35.

Fighter Of The Month: Based on his title fight triumph over Benny Paret, the winner is newly crowned welterweight champion Emile Griffith. Also receiving consideration is heavyweight contender Eddie Machen, who secured his position by outpointing fellow contender Mike DeJohn in San Francisco.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

KNOCKING ON CHAVEZ' DOOR



Kamau: Gunning for Chavez

If a year from now we're ruing the fact that Julio Cesar Chavez and Frankie Randall never engaged in a rubber match, the finger of blame will likely be pointed at David Kamau. Though familiar only to hard-core fans, the Kenyan-born contender, who clashes with WBC super lightweight champion Chavez on September 16 in Las Vegas, is a legitimate threat. In fact, Kamau, 26-0 (20), is probably the biggest threat to the Mexican since "J.C. Superstar" was rematched with Randall in May 1994.

"I want to be the best of the best, so fighting Chavez, I'm happy," said the Los Angeles-based Kamau, who came to the United States five years ago. "People say Chavez is old, he's washed up, but not to me. Chavez is the best in the division."

The 30-year-old Kamau's biggest wins have come against Rogelio Montenegro (KO 7), Sammy Fuentes (W 10), Fidel Avendano (KO 2), and Kenny Baysmore (KO 4). He's a natural puncher but he plans to employ more than one style against the champion. The way his co-managers, Frank and A Ronzio, figure it, the timing of the fight is perfect.

"David hasn't had opposition like Chavez," said Frank Ronzio, "but this is coming at the right point in his career. And where Chavez was thought to be invincible a couple of years back, there appear to be a couple chinks in his armor now."

Waiting for Chavez to crash, it seems, is like waiting for Godot. But Kamau just might be the fighter shatter the legend. "I'm a banger; I was born strong," he said. "If I get him good, he'll go."

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Cole: Keeping the cruiser crown

LISTEN UP

IBF cruiserweight champion **Al Cole** will indeed fight at heavyweight, but don't look for him to vacate the title. He'll hold on to it and drop back down to 190 pounds when he needs to make a mandatory defense. The IBF's number-one contender is **Sergei Kobozev** ... The **De La Hoya-Hernandez** card on September will include a bout between **Kevin Kelley** and **Bones Adams**. And underneath **Chavez-Kamau** on September 16 will be WBA junior welterweight champion **Frankie Randall** vs. **Juan Coggi**, as well as newly crowned WBA junior middleweight king **Carl Daniels** vs. **Julio Cesar Vasquez** ... IBF light heavyweight champion **Henry Maske's** next defense will come against **Duran Williams** in October.

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Riddick Bowe	Tommy Morrison	6-1	Public may bet Morrison; I can't see it
Riddick Bowe	Evander Holyfield	5-2	Younger, bigger, stronger man has edge
Frankie Randall	Juan Coggi	3-1	Randall better get serious again or he'll get beat
Kevin Kelley	Bones Adams	2-1	Interesting matchup; both coming off tough fight
Carl Daniels	Julio Cesar Vasquez	7-5	Good, competitive matchup
Axel Schulz	Frans Botha	9-5	Who cares?

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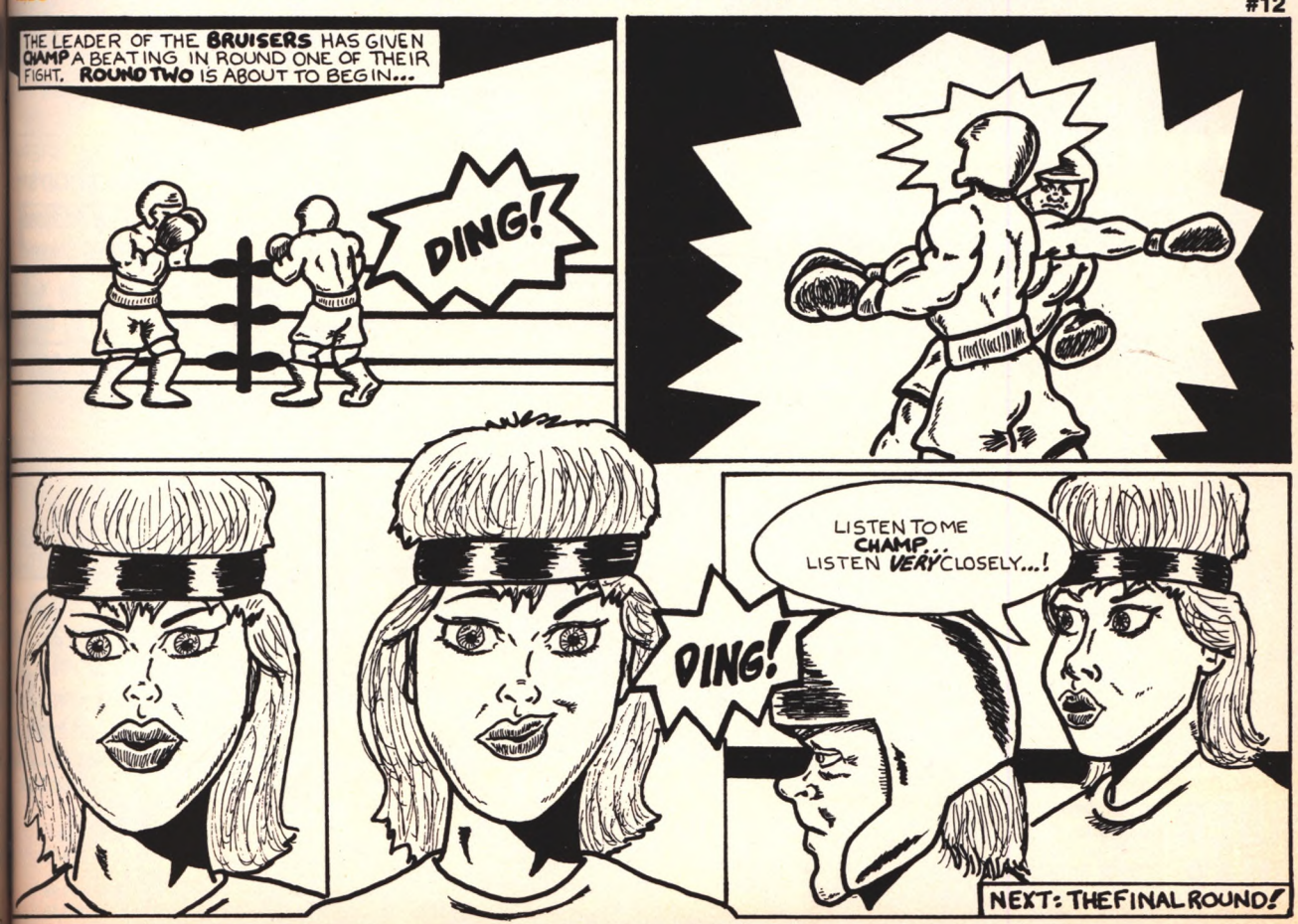

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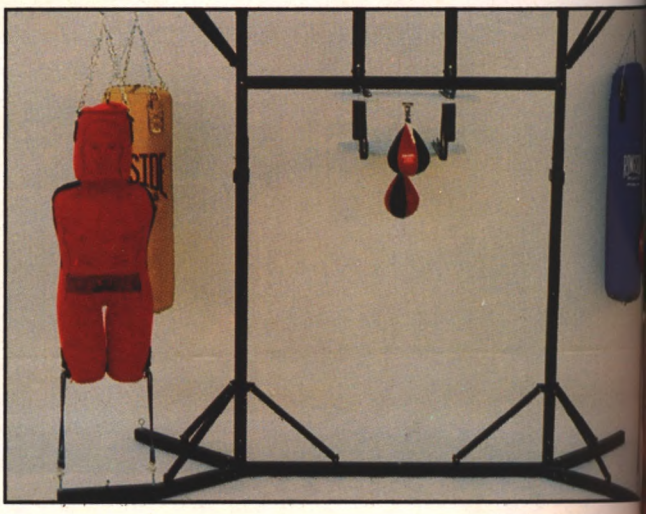

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